THE

REVENUE REGISTER.

No. 8. MADRAS:—SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1874. [Vol. VIII.

MANUAL OF THE NELLORE DISTRICT—III.

CHAPTER XVIII—*Revenue History.*—This chapter embraces the period from British assumption of the administration of the District to Mr. Elton's Collectorate, 1801 to 1858. It was contributed by M. C. S. and continued by Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, C. S. The first Collector of Nellore was Mr. Travers, who took immediate measures for securing the country and its revenues for the East India Company. The story of his collectorship is one continued narrative of worries and troubles. The initiation of a new order of things is always a disagreeable work, and those employed in it seldom receive either thanks or praise. The first settlement of Land Revenue was made in 1801, not as a permanent settlement but as a tentative measure, by which the capacity of the district might be ascertained. The first step towards an assessment was naturally a survey; this accordingly was made, though it was not, nor was it intended to be, accurate. Considering all his disadvantages, Mr. Travers really did good service to the Government; he was the pioneer on whom fell the heat and burden of the day. His difficulties were numerous: among them was the persistent opposition of the wealthy principal ryots of the villages, who did all in their power to counteract his influence over the poorer cultivators. In October 1804 another trouble crossed the Collector's path: there was a terrible flood in the Pennair; the causeway leading to the town of Nellore from the south was completely swept away; the waters flowed deep and fast on either side of the town which barely escaped destruction. Of course tanks were ruined, fields were covered with silt, and the ryots abandoned all efforts at cultivation. However, after a time, some of the lands were cultivated, and with this poor Mr. Travers' hopes revived. We cannot do better than extract part of a short summary of Mr. Travers' administration. "It is impossible to deny that his efforts were crowned with considerable success, and that Mr. Fraser, a later Collector, was justified in his statement that Mr. Travers displayed an uncommon share of industry, zeal, and perseverance. Many circumstances, however, told in his favour. The drought of 1803 and the flood of 1804 notwithstanding, these five years were, on the whole, favourable. Although the corrupt renters and wealthy Reddis withstood him at every point, yet the people must have speedily learned that his sway was more just and more lenient than was that of the Nawab's myrmidons. His authority was believed by the ryots to

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be well nigh despotic, and that could not fail to strengthen his hands. There was no Zillah Court to divide his power and interpret the Regulations so as to curb the revenue officials. He evidently believed the resources of his district to be much greater than they really were. Copper mines promised incalculable wealth. The area under cultivation was capable of great expansion. Thus he was not restrained by any scruples from imposing what, in some cases, was really a rack-rent in his efforts to make a favourable report to the Board." In 1808 some natives from Nellore appeared in Madras, pretending that they had been deputed by the people of Nellore to bring to the notice of Government embezzlements by the Collector and his Peishcar to the value of 130,950 Pagodas. The Governor in Council, having consulted the Board of Revenue, despatched the Junior Member, Mr. Thackeray, to Nellore, to make an investigation. This he appears to have done with great promptitude, severity, and exactness. The result was that some few trifling irregularities were discovered, but nothing at all commensurate with the alleged defalcations, and the pseudo-petitioners were forced to admit that their charges against the Collector were founded on mere bazaar rumours, and that they had themselves named the sum of Pagodas 1,30,000 merely as a guess. The Board censured Mr. Travers for the irregularities that had been discovered, but were satisfied that nothing substantially wrong had taken place under his régime. The result was that Mr. Travers, though confessedly a hard-working, upright, Collector, was transferred to the Judicial Department, and Mr. Thomas Fraser was made Collector in his stead. Mr. Fraser endeavoured to complete the settlement of the district, and leased out the villages, not settled by Mr. Travers, on three-year leases. He, like his predecessor, had his troubles, one of which was that he was constantly at variance with the District Judge, who, far from supporting the Collector's authority, seems to have thrown great obstacles in the way of his obtaining ready redress against contumacious renters and defaulting ryots. Invasions of the Pindaries and the effects of bad seasons threw the renters much behind with their payment: the four principal of them then conceived the brilliant idea of going to Madras to charge the Collector with mismanagement, and his servants with corruption. Mr. Fraser, however, seems to have been quite aware of their designs, and taking advantage of a clause which gave him power to arrest defaulters who were quitting the district without giving security, he seized the four would-be petitioners and threw them into jail. In 1823 Mr. Fraser, whose health had long been failing, left the district, and was replaced by Mr. Smalley. The next year chanced to be a prosperous one; and by the exertions of the Collector and his Assistants, Messrs. Kindersley, Stonehouse, and Goldingham, the revenue rose to the highest figure it has ever attained. The Collector thought an entirely new survey was necessary, and he caused three villages to be surveyed as an experiment; subsequently he wished to extend it at once to other parts of the district, but was requested by the Board to await the result of the consideration of the experiment on the first three villages. Consequently the assessment of the whole district was in a very undefined condition, parts being assessed under the puttahs of Mr. Travers, others under average rates, and some being amani. In 1829, Mr. C. A. Thompson became Collector, and was at once startled by finding Rupees 60,000 allowed in the accounts as remissions on withered crops, whereas the average remission was only

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4,000 Rupees. In consequence Mr. Thompson and his Assistant proceeded on a tour of inspection, and soon found the enormous remissions to be a fraud planned by the Cutcherry servants, the ryots paying readily 57,000 Rupees ! ! ! Mr. Thompson had been Collector only two years when, owing to his failing health, the district passed into the hands of Mr. Whish, for many years Collector of Guntur. At this time, owing to defective settlement and frequent changes, the state of the district was most deplorable. The monsoon of 1832 failed, and, fearing a famine, the people broke into the grain stores; and the Collector, instead of strengthening the Police force, spent Rupees 1,400 in ceremonies to induce the gods to send freshes of water down the Pennair! In 1835 Mr. Whish was succeeded by Mr., afterwards Sir, T. V. Stonehouse, who had served his apprenticeship as Assistant, Head Assistant, and Sub-Collector of the district. The Board hoped that Mr. Stonehouse, with his great experience, would have been able at once to prescribe a panacea for the woes of Nellore; but in consequence perhaps of the troubled state of the district, it took the Collector seven years to prepare his propositions for the Board: at last, in 1842, the scheme was brought to the light of day. From it it appeared that Mr. Stonehouse did not at all approve of an individual ryotwari system, and considered all the surveys taken of the district up to that time to be very defective and unreliable. He concluded his report in the following words—"The suggestion, therefore, that I would venture to make, in the event of its being determined to have a field assessment in this district, is to fix a grain, instead of a money, assessment on each field, commutable into money at the current prices of each year—a system which would tend to improve the condition of the ryots and be better suited to their own wishes and feelings, and which would secure to Government a surplus revenue when prices are high, which they now for the most part lose; while the loss, when prices are low, would only then fall on Government, as it now does, not nominally, but virtually by the non-realization of that portion of the revenue which the ryots, from the cheap price of grain, are unable to pay, except by the sale of a part of their property." Many years passed away before any action was taken on this report. Mr. Bishop succeeded Mr. Stonehouse as Collector, and, after him, in somewhat rapid succession, Messrs. G. A. Smith, Purvis, White, and Elton, held the collectorship. During Mr. Elton's tenure of office the rates for dry cultivation were made uniform at Rupees 25, and the rates for wet cultivation were also greatly modified.

Chapter XIX—*Revenue History*.—This chapter embraces a period from the Collectorate of Mr. Dykes to the present time, 1859 to 1871. This chapter was contributed by Rozukhirdi Venkata Kristna Rao Puntulu Garu, Head Sheristadar. During this period many changes have taken place; ninety-seven villages of the Dupad Taluk, Kurnool District, were transferred to Nellore, as they were intermingled with the villages of the Rajah of Venkatagiri which had always belonged to Nellore; again, in 1863, the Sriharikota Division was transferred to Nellore from the Ponneri Taluk of the Madras District; the *pulleri*, or tax on pasture land, was abolished; and the question of jungle conservancy also came under consideration. Mr. Boswell suggested that the Nellore jungles should be placed under the Forest Conservancy Department; but as the Board did not approve of this measure, Mr. Boswell drew up rules and organized an establishment for the purpose in the district. The survey of the district

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so often attempted, so often ending in disappointment, was at last completed in 1870 by Mr. Charles Rundall, whose survey was found to be satisfactory, and on which the present assessment of the village is based. The chapter concludes with a tabular form showing the area cultivated in each taluk, and the average yield and prices in 1801 as compared with 1865.

HIGH COURT—MADRAS.

[*Appellate Side.*]

MORGAN, C. J., AND KINDERSLEY, J.

Right to running water.

Every riparian owner has the right to the lawful use of water running through his own land.

Subramania Pundara Sanady *v.* Aiyasawmy Vajapayer and others.

THE plaintiff, as the owner of the villages of Teruvaduthorai and Teruvaduthorai Devastanum, brought this suit to set aside an order passed by the Head Assistant Magistrate of Tanjore on the 11th July 1866, prohibiting plaintiff from irrigating his nunjah lands from an irrigation stream called Teruvalengadu Vaikal, to establish his right to do so, and to recover Rupees 3,061-5-8 damages incurred by his being, at the instance of the defendants, deprived of the use of the water. The suit was brought in the Court of G. Mutusawmy Chettiar, Sub-Judge of Tranquebar. It was alleged by the plaintiff that the abovesaid villages belonging to him and the villages of Teruvalengadu, Teruvalengadu Devastanum, Teruvalengadu Erayaly, and Madavarayapuram, were irrigated by a common stream known as the Elanatady Vaikal, issuing from the river Cauvery, which, after passing through the plaintiff's village of Teruvaduthorai, divided itself into two branches in Teruvaduthorai Devastanum, also the plaintiff's village; that one of these branches called the Teruvalengadu Vaikal then pursued its course through the plaintiff's village and passed on to the defendant's village of Teruvalengadu; that the plaintiff had used the water of the stream as it passed through his village for his punjah and other lands which he had converted into nunjah; but that in 1866, the defendants complained to the Magistrate that plaintiff had, contrary to usage, diverted the water to which they asserted an exclusive right; and that the Magistrate upon this complaint passed an order under Chapter XXII of the Criminal Procedure Code, which not only prohibited the exercise of his right to irrigation, but had entailed loss on him by the destruction of his seedlings. The defendants denied the plaintiff's right to irrigation from the water in question, and set up an exclusive right in themselves. The Sub-Judge not being satisfied with the report of the Commissioner deputed to make a local inquiry, proceeded himself, at the request of both plaintiff and defendants, to inspect the stream and the lands in dispute, and arrived at certain conclusions upon which he disposed of the suit. He found that the stream in question was a branch stream issuing from the river Cauvery, that it passed through the plaintiff's village, and then entered that of the defendants; that there was nothing in evidence to show who brought the streams into existence; but that it was admitted to be part of a system of irrigation which had been in existence in connection with the Cauvery for more than forty years. He found also that it was admitted that the land through which it ran, before it entered the limits of defendants' village of Teruvalengadu, was the property of the plaintiff; and upon several indications which he had observed at his inspection, he came to the conclusion, that it was "clear that defendants had all along conveyed water through the disputed channel which lay in plaintiff's land, subject to the right which plaintiff had of irrigating his lands abutting the same;" that under these circumstances, the defendants had no right to deny to the plaintiff the use of the water which ran through his own land; but that the plaintiff had no right to raise the level of the water for his own irrigation by any artificial dam or other obstruction. The Sub-Judge thereupon declared the plaintiff's right to irrigate his lands from the stream in question; but he disallowed the damages claimed by him, and prohibited the erection of any dam. On appeal to the District Court of South Tanjore, the District Judge modified this decree; and upon the evidence forthcoming as to user, disallowed the plaintiff's right in respect to two parcels of land, but allowed the right claimed in respect to two other parcels.

The plaintiff thereupon specially appealed to the High Court on the ground that, by modifying the decree of the original Court, the district Judge disallowed to the plaintiff the natural use of water in the stream in ques-

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tion to which, as riparian owner of lands on either side, he was fully entitled.

Scharlieb, for appellant, contended that on the principles laid down in the English cases, especially in *Miner* v. *Gilmore*, XII, Moore's P. C.; and *Lord Norbury* v. *Kitchin*, IX, Jur., N. S., followed by this Court in *The Maharajah of Vizianagram* v. *The Proprietor of Chitegada*, IX, *Madras Jurist*, 209, the plaintiff was entitled to the lawful use of water running through his own land, no matter whether he had exercised that right, or not.

O'Sullivan (with him *Rama Row* and *Balaji Row*), for defendants, contended that this was not the ground on which the plaintiff had brought his suit; the question had been tried on the ground of user, and as the lower appellate Court had found that the plaintiff had proved no user, he was not entitled to a decree.

Their Lordships, after intimating that the District Judge was wrong in the view he had taken of the case, delivered the following

Judgment:—19th June 1874.

It is contended that the plaintiff in this case has based his right upon long user and that, this fact having been found by the Judge against him, he cannot be allowed to urge that, as a riparian proprietor, he has a right to the use of the water of the stream in question. But a reference to the terms of the plaint and to the issues suffices to show that the claim was not so put forward or understood and that this contention cannot be sustained. Both parties alleged that they had been accustomed to use the water, but the defendants sought to show an exclusive right in themselves arising from a long and exclusive use. This the Subordinate Judge found they had failed to prove. They appealed to the District Judge, who for the most part considers in his judgment only whether the *plaintiff* had succeeded in establishing on his part a long and uninterrupted use of the water. It was found that (with some special exceptions) he had not, and the judgment of the Subordinate Judge was, therefore, modified. The plaintiff's evidence of user was material with reference to the defendants' alleged exclusive right which it tended to disprove. But the plaintiff's case stood, as we have observed, upon a broader basis. As a riparian proprietor he had a right to such lawful use of the stream as he claimed, and was entitled to such a decree as the Court of first instance had given in his favour. The order of the Judge proceeding merely upon the ground of the plaintiff's failure to establish a right founded on long user must be rescinded, and the decree of the Subordinate Judge restored. The appellant will have his costs in both appellate Courts.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Rice-destroying Insects.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th April 1874.

Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Superintendent Government Central Museum, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 11th April 1874, No. 46:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Order, No. 358, of 17th March, I have the honour to report that I have carefully examined the samples of injured rice and the insects sent to me by the Collector of South Arcot.

2. The rice is completely destroyed, nothing being left but the husk, and I have not succeeded in finding in either of these two samples sent to me a single sound grain. On close examination, each grain is found perforated with a small hole, being the opening by which the insect finally escaped.

3. In the first batch of insects received there were two kinds—one a true weevil *(Calandra)* and the other a species of *Tomicus* which belongs to a nearly allied family. The weevils are all extremely destructive to agricultural produce, and prodigiously prolific. One, the *Corn-weevil*, is very common in English granaries, and often proves very destructive. Various methods have been adopted for its destruction, such as heating the wheat up to 130° or 140° Fahrenheit,—a temperature fatal to the insect; but the most effectual preservatives are frequent shifting and turning of the grain and free ventilation.

4. The second batch of insects received consisted entirely of *Tomicus*,—a fact that rather surprised me, as most of the family to which it belongs live in the bark and wood of trees, proving at times most destructive to growing timber. This insect is also very prolific. Latreille says that one female will deposit from sixty to eighty eggs.

5. In both cases, the female lays a single egg in each grain, and the larva when hatched works into the interior, and eats up every particle of the farinaceous contents. The perfect insects of both species are extremely small, being about the size of a pin-head.

6. The only preventive and remedial measures that I can suggest are, that if the store-houses are old, they should either be abandoned or cleared out. If the latter alternative be adopted, they should be left empty for some months, thoroughly cleaned, and leeped or white-washed. In case of a batch of grain

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being infested by the insects, I would recommend its exposure for some days to the sun and frequent turning while thus exposed.

7. I also found in one sample of the grain six or eight specimens of a small moth, *Tinea.* The presence of all these insects is indicative of old, dirty, and badly-ventilated godowns.

Order thereon, 24th April 1874, No. 497.

This report will be communicated, through the Board of Revenue, to the Collector of South Arcot. Mr. Garstin will recommend to the notice of merchants the simple remedial measures suggested in paragraph 6.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secy. to Government.

THERAPEUTIC ACTION OF CALCIC QUINOVINATE IN TREATMENT OF FEVER AND DYSENTERY.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th April 1874.

Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India:—

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
19*th March* 1874.

MY LORD,—I have received and considered in Council your Excellency's despatches, dated December 16th (No. 40) 1873, and January 13th (No. 1) 1874, the former reporting the results of experiments on the therapeutic action of Calcic quinovinate in the treatment of fever and dysentery, and the latter forwarding Mr. Broughton's account of his investigations of the tubers of Aconitum heterophyllum.

2. The use of quinovinate was recommended on account of its cheapness, and the facility with which abundant supplies can be procured. Its inferiority to quinine in cases of fever, and to ipecacuanha in dysentery, was understood; but it was believed, with reference to the greater cost of the more potent medicines, that quinovinate might prove a valuable auxiliary in the treatment of diseases which annually commit such ravages in British India. I observe that Dr. Andrews of Mercara is of opinion that quinovinate will become a valuable aid in the treatment of dysentery, and Dr. Houston of Mysore also thinks that it would prove serviceable.

3. I am certainly of opinion, looking to the high price of the more potent remedies, that the importance of making the natives of India acquainted with a more economical though less efficacious remedy ought not to be lost sight of. At a time when epidemics are ravaging a district, the sufferers are occasionally so numerous that the more expensive medicines can only be administered to a small portion of them. In April 1871, for instance, 114,012 persons sought relief at the dispensaries in the Burdwan District, and many undoubtedly succumbed owing to the impossibility of supplying them with expensive remedies.

4. On these grounds, I have to request that you will cause further and careful experiments to be instituted as to the value of the drug in the treatment of dysentery.

5. I have perused Mr. Broughton's report on the results of his investigation of the tubers of Aconitum heterophyllum, the Hindustani Atis, and perceive that he has succeeded in extracting a new alkaloid previously unknown, to which he has given the name of Atisine; the separation of which is neither difficult nor laborious. This substance may prove of future use in medicine, and, as it is quite new to chemists, I desire that specimens of the drug as sold in the bazaars, and of the Atisine hydrochlorate, may be forwarded to this office.

I have, &c.,
SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

Order thereon, 24th April 1874, No. 504.

Board of Revenue. Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department. Surgeon-General, British Medical Department. Sanitary Commissioner. Commissioner of Nilgiris. Government Quinologist.	Communicated to the Departments and Officers noted in the margin. 2. The Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, will arrange for the institution of further and careful experiments as to the value of Calcic quinovinate in the treatment of dysentery, as desired by the Secretary of State in paragraph 4 of his despatch.

3. The Government Quinologist, who is at present on leave, will, on his return, be requested to comply with the Surgeon-General's future requisition for this drug, and will also be directed to forward to Government specimens of the Atisine hydrochlorate, and of the tubers from which it is prepared, for transmission to the Secretary of State.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secy. to Government.

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Relief Measures in South Arcot.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th May 1874.

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Second Member of the Board of Revenue, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 30th March 1874:—

In compliance with the orders of Government, dated 3rd March 1874, I have the honour to submit the report called for as to the state of the South Arcot District, and the measures of relief which it may be necessary to afford owing to the partial failure of crops and apprehensions of scarcity.

2. Having visited the talnks of Cuddalore, Virdachellam, Tricallore, Trinomalay, Tindivanam, and Villapuram, and conferred with the local officers and others conversant with the subject, I may at once say that, as far as I have been able to ascertain, there is at present no cause for alarm and no fear of anything like famine. Prices are high, and the poorer classes, amongst whom may be comprised peons, policemen, and other lowly paid servants, will doubtless feel the effects of this, as they always have, and always must, when "hard times" like these temporarily occur. There is not likely to be any actual want of food-grains; the supply on hand is said to be sufficient for the next three months at the very least; and as the Collectors of the neighbouring districts say nothing about scarcity, we may reasonably believe that where the money is there the food will come. In fact, I have seen grain being moved about the country just according to the ordinary rules of supply and demand; so that with the good roads which South Arcot possesses, there appears to me to be no reason for storing or purchasing on the part of Government. Works of the ordinary kind under Agricultural and Local Fund should certainly be pushed on, so as to put money into the hands of the poorer classes for the purchase of food, and to furnish to the district authorities a test whereby the state of each taluk and the necessity of hereafter opening relief-houses may be safely ascertained. I cannot, however, help thinking that, should we be favoured with two or three good downpours, there will be some difficulty in finding hands to carry on the works in progress, as every one will rush off to his cultivation, and the district will assume its wonted agricultural aspect. As an example of this, I may state that when at Trinomalay last week I found it even then difficult to procure labourers for the works the Deputy Collector was starting; and also found that only some of the relief works of 1868 had been really carried out, and that even these had been mainly performed by professional contractors, with professional wudders, owing no doubt to the presence of timely rains soon after the works were set on foot. Two of the railway engineers, whom I met separately, told me they found difficulty in obtaining coolies; the one in the Cuddalore, and the other in the Tindivanam Taluk.

3. I must also mention that during my tour I had no petitions presented to me regarding the subject of my mission, and there were no noisy demonstrations got up, as from my former knowledge of the South Arcot ryots I expected there would have been, to urge the necessity for remissions. The Talliari, as usual, came forward, representing that the Curnum had juggled him out of his wet land granted as maniyam, and had allotted him a piece of rocky ground in its stead; and the Dharmakartas earnestly requested that the income to their pagodas might be paid in money as heretofore, and not by assignments of land-revenue. But no one complained of want or distress, and, in fact, at Trinomalay, where I had expected to find matters worst of all, the people seemed to regard the advent of the "Board Number,"* as rather a good joke.

* Rustic Native way of pronouncing the word "Member."

4. The country looks parched and burnt up, as it usually does at this time of the year when the rains have ceased and the crops are, as a rule, off the ground. There is, however, owing to the very backward harvest, still a good deal of paddy to be cut and of ground-nut to be grubbed up, as in dry seasons the nuts are allowed to remain in the ground, long after the plants themselves have had their day. The ryots are also evidently making the most of their well cultivation. There is no sickness to speak of amongst the inhabitants, but I was sorry to find that cattle-disease of a fatal type was prevalent in the Gingee Division. The poorer classes are not eating things unusual and unwholesome owing to the present rise in prices, as although the articles partaken of may, in some instances, such as rats and tamarind stones, appear to induce this belief; they are, in reality, only the ordinary food of certain castes and classes.

5. Another cause, which is stated to have raised prices and lowered the supply, is the presence of an insect which newly appeared in July last, and played such havoc with the stored paddy that people sold off their stocks in a hurry, rather than have them diminished by this novel species of spoliation. It has not been easy to arrive at any conclusion regarding the truth of this story. Different people describe this insect, which they term the "Annahpuchi," in quite different ways; and, although they all agreed about its appearing in July and disappearing in November, I had some brought to me in March, which was said to be the real

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insect, although it did not answer the descriptions previously given, and resembled, as far as I could see, the common weevil. I was told at Tricallore that it was often found in cumboo, but never before in paddy, which seems strange. Altogether I do not much believe in the "Annahpuchi" as a new infliction, although perhaps the rumour of there being something of the kind may have created a slight panic and forced sales to some extent. This, however, can hardly be gathered from the price lists as they exhibit no remarkable fall about that time.

6. Owing to the lengthened drought and the prevailing high prices, I have asked Mr. Garstin to notify that melons, cucumbers, and pumpkins, may be grown in the tank-beds free of any assessment, as I found this small concession was appreciated by the ryots of Tinnevelly in the somewhat similar season of 1865; and likewise to notify that raggy may be grown, with the little water that now remains, without any charge being levied for second crop this fusly, or without its being considered as first crop or "Poothoo muthal" for the ensuing revenue-year. This exemption may tend to increase the cultivation of this useful grain which comes to maturity in ninety days after transplanting.

7. Although, therefore, the state of the district seems certainly at present to call for no extraordinary measures of relief, no indenting upon Imperial Funds, and no gratuitous distributions of cooked food, yet I am sorry to say that the early cessation of the north-east monsoon will entail a heavy sacrifice of revenue, as it will be necessary to give remissions beyond those which the Collector is allowed to grant, although not to such an extent as had been at first anticipated.

8. Up to the end of November, as will be hereafter more fully explained, the prospects of the season were fair, although the November rain-fall was deficient; but rain failed sadly in December, and there has been none since. This has greatly lessened the outturn of the later dry crops, particularly of varagu which is harvested nearly last of all; and has, in many cases, prevented the late-sown wet crops under rain-fed tanks, and other somewhat hazardous sources from coming to maturity. Wet lands under river-channels, large reservoirs, and other trustworthy supplies, were, generally speaking, all safe, and I do not anticipate any great falling off under the head of "Second Crop." But even under these trustworthy sources the late-sown paddy has suffered, and remissions under the head of "Shavi" must be given in certain localities. The cultivation accounts given below show a marked decrease below those of last year, so that apart from the question of remissions, there would have been a large falling off in the revenue when compared with that of the year preceding. Had there been anything like a timely fall of rain in December, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs would have been largely averted, and downpours in January or even in February would have saved many of the now-perishing wet crops:—

Description.	Fusly 1282. Extent.	Fusly 1282. Assessment.	Fusly 1283. Extent.	Fusly 1283. Assessment.	Increase. Extent.	Increase. Assessment.	Decrease. Extent.	Decrease. Assessment.
	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.	ACRES.	RS.
Punjah	787,454	15,42,805	727,408	14,25,686	1,539	6,891	60,046	1,17,119
Nunjah	264,210	14,66,398	254,001	14,02,423	24	2,108	10,209	63,975
Total...	1,051,664	30,09,203	981,409	28,28,109	1,563	8,999	71,818	1,90,093
	......	......	......	......	......	......	1,563	8,999
Net...	......	......	......	......	......	......	70,255	1,81,094

9. The following abstract from the season reports of the district for the month of November, written when there was no dread of scarcity, nor apprehended need for large remissions in the Land-revenue Demand, shows that there was nothing whatever to cause uneasiness until after December. In fact, about the very first note of warning that was sounded was Mr. Sullivan's letter of the 28th January to Mr. Garstin, just as the latter took charge of the

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district, saying that remissions would doubtless have to be given upon dry lands, and that houses of relief might eventually have to be opened.

Season.		Crops.						
Rain-fall.	River freshes.	Sown.	Standing and their condition.	Crops harvested and their out-turn.	Prices.	Public health.	Cattle condition.	Pasture.
Rained through-out the district.	All the rivers were in fresh.	Cholum, horse-gram, raggy, cumboo, ulundu, ground-nut, indigo, gingelly-oil seed, cotton, kar, and sumba paddy.*	Varagu, cholum, raggy, horse-gram, ulundu, ground-nut, gingelly-oil seed, sumba, and kar paddy, were in good condition. But in parts of three taluks dry crops were not in a flourishing condition, owing to excessive and incessant fall of rain.	Kar paddy, cholum, cumboo, and raggy, were harvested, and indigo was being cut. The outturn of wet crops was tolerable, and those of dry were less than the average, owing to the deficiency of rain prior to September.	Slightly fluctuated.	Generally good. Small-pox, dengue and fever were prevalent to a slight extent in parts.	Disease prevailed in parts of four taluks.	Procurable.

As I was unable to discover that anything had been recorded either in the season reports or elsewhere regarding the alleged failure of the cumboo crop, which should be all harvested before December, and which occupies so large a breadth* of this province, it is difficult to understand how its extensive destruction, as now stated, could have occurred. There was certainly nothing specially adverse in the season for this crop; indigo, ground-nuts, gingelly-oil seeds, and cotton, evidently fared decently, whilst watered raggy and the large area under garden-culture yielded more or less their wonted outturn. It may be said that I am relying too much upon season reports which may not have been prepared with sufficient care; but my experience of these documents certainly is that they paint things in far blacker colours than they really ought.

*Probably a fifth of the whole area under dry cultivation.

10. The following shows the rain-fall as recorded for each taluk from the commencement of the present official year:—

Months.	Chellambram.	Cuddalore.	Kallakurichi.	Tindivanam.	Tricalore.	Trinomalay.	Villapuram.	Virdachellam.	Average of the whole district.
April 1873 ...	4·45	6·50	2·58	0·24	1·88	0·75	0·20	2·10	18·71
May „ ...	3·00	0·60	2·25	1·00	2·10	3·10	1·05	1·55	14·65
June „ ...	1·40	0·60	2·05	2·00	0·95	0·95	2·68	0·15	10·78
July „ ...	2·10	1·75	0·20	1·30	3·85	2·18	0·70	1·45	13·53
August „ ...	0·10	4·55	1·70	6·15	2·50	2·93	3·08	2·05	23·76
September „ ...	3·95	3·76	7·50	5·95	5·28	5·08	5·20	3·10	39·82
October „ ...	13·00	12·62	11·40	12·90	13·17	9·63	12·65	7·00	92·37
November „ ...	13·65	11·10	3·10	4·15	2·31	1·50	6·03	5·10	46·94
December „ ...	2·30	1·43	1·00	0·95	0·30	0·18	......	0·10	6·26
January 1874 ...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
February „ ...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
March „ ...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
Total...	44·65	42·91	31·78	34·65	32·34	26·30	31·59	22·60	266·82
									33·32

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It will be seen that the average rain-fall of the district at large reaches 33·32 inches, which is considerably better than that of Fuslies 1275 and 1277, which were deemed unusually bad seasons; the former being the year of the famine in Ganjam, and the latter the year in which Mr. Robinson was deputed to report upon the state of Salem, North Arcot, and other districts.

Rain-fall.

——	Fusly 1275 or 1865-66.	Fusly 1277 or 1867-68.	Fusly 1283 or 1873-74.
	Krodana.	Prabhava.	Srimuka.
April ...	1·20	0·20	2·34
May ...	3·70	2·00	1·83
June ...	0·90	0·10	1·35
July ...	4·50	1·60	1·69
August ...	2·90	4·80	2·96
September	3·80	2·90	4·98
October ...	3·70	6·40	11·55
November.	4·50	2·60	5·87
December.	1·10	0·60	0·75
January ...	......	3·90	......
February...	......	0·10	......
March ...	......	0·20	......
Total...	26·30	25·40	33·32

11. The foregoing figures confirm to a considerable extent my doubt as to whether the alleged vast failure of the cumboo and other early dry crops has not been considerably exaggerated, as from July to November whilst they occupied the fields, there was nothing so very disastrous in the monthly rain-fall, either one way or the other. No doubt, as I have already said, the later crops suffered, particularly varagu which is the staple food of the lower classes, and which is not cut until January or February; the late-sown raggy must also have fared badly, and horse-gram did not receive sufficient rain. There has, however, been, as far as I can learn, only a very small amount of what is technically termed "entire dry shavi," or crops that have then and there actually withered. Again, very frequently different sorts of grain and pulses are sown together in the same field, although reaching maturity at different times, and, in many instances, a second crop is obtained, such as gram after cumboo; so that, with a rain-fall like that recorded for the past year, it seems strange that the rain should have been so perverse as not to confer substantial benefits at certain times and seasons.

12. The alleviations to be made for loss in dry crops will necessarily vary more or less in the several taluks, owing to some tracts having been more favoured than others, and to the arrangements which had been made by the settling officers before I reached the district. As a rule, it will be necessary to forego the three last kists on varagu lands, thus remitting 31¼ per cent of the Government demand thereon. In some taluks the assessment on cumboo, cholum, and unwatered raggy, will also be remitted to the same extent; but in Chekkady and in Chengam, where the season was fair and the crops, particularly of oil-seeds, quite up to the average, there will be no remissions at all on dry lands. When looking into the results taluk by taluk, Government may be of opinion that the concessions on dry lands are, in some instances, perhaps less than they might be; but when it is remembered that dry cultivation must ever be more or less precarious; that one of the objects of Mr. Maltby's large reduction in the land assessment of this province was to enable the ryots to tide over a bad season unaided by remissions; that anything like their regular institution would be a serious drain upon the Exchequer; and that the ryots only expect them, to some extent, as an act of grace; it would appear that the concessions we have arrived at for dry lands are sufficiently liberal; indeed, in the case of Tindivanam they seem to me perhaps too much so.

13. As already explained, the land-owners had nothing to complain of as regards wet crops sown tolerably early, but it fared otherwise with those got into the ground later; and consequently the remission on account of crops which actually perished without coming to ear, or yielded next to nothing, will have to be granted. The assessment on the wet area included in the ryots' puttah, but remaining uncultivated, will, as usual, be remitted under the head of "ditta caramboo"* or "puttah taras,"* when the fact of the land remaining untilled arises from adverse circumstances, and not from opportunities having been neglected by the land-holder.

* Revenue terms for lands retained in the puttah without being cultivated.

Another large item, which will need favourable consideration, is that of "kusser shavi" or remission of water-rate upon dry lands to which Government water has been supplied, but upon which the crop† has perished. Some of the district officers were of opinion that as this water had been taken for "dry" lands to the detriment of the regularly registered "wet" fields, no remission of this water-rate should be allowed. But when it is remembered that the so-called dry lands are intermingled with the registered wet; that they take the water year after year upon payment of this charge; that

† Almost universally paddy.

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there has been as yet no systematic determination as to which are the lands really first entitled to the tank-supply; and that this item of revenue is a large one, amounting to Rupees 25,000 in the Tindivanam Taluk alone, it is, I think, but fair to forego the charges for water in those instances where no crop has been obtained by its use. I have not always shown separately the amount remitted under this head, as in some taluks it is merged under the general term of "Shavi."

14. In the Appendix I have noticed briefly the state of each taluk separately, and mentioned the remissions which seem to me proper to be given in each case, thereby disposing of Mr. Garstin's letter on this subject, which was referred to me with Board's Proceedings, dated 24th instant. It will be found that the concessions now recommended are considerably below the originally estimated limit, which would have largely necessitated refunds being made to the ryots, with but small chances of their ever really getting them. The figures which I have been able to collate in such a hurried trip before the Jummabundy was completed must necessarily be deemed approximates; but I have been careful not to estimate too favourably for the State as regards remissions,* nor too hopefully for the District as regards its out-turn and resources.

* Except in case perhaps of Chellambram, *vide* Appendix.

15. I have not gone very deeply into the question of works to be provided, as Mr. Garstin has arranged with the District Engineer that all those entered in the Local Fund Budget should be put in hand at once, so that, unless the season is most singularly unpropitious, these, together with the annual agricultural works, should suffice. The building of the dispensaries, &c., will furnish employment to women and children particularly, as the bricklayer wants everything brought to him and placed ready to his hand.

16. As the Local Funds are rich, the President can no doubt allot further sums for improving the drinking supply, for cutting prickly pear, or for collecting and breaking up road-material, should such additional outlay be hereafter necessary. The mode in which payment should be made on these works is an important point. To be really relief-works, the wages should be distributed daily; and this will require relaxation of the established rules, and an increase in the number of supervising officers. The daily payment should, I think, be introduced at first, and thus extra Overseers and Maistries will be needed, but should rainfall and matters resume their wonted course, the contract-system and wudders might be reverted to, as no doubt the latter do better work than unskilled daily labourers.

17. The following abstract from the Appendix shows the particulars of the remission proposed for each taluk:—

Taluks.	Estimated Beriz.	Remissions. Dry.	Remissions. Wet.	Remissions. Total.	Percentage.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	
1. Chellambram ...	6,33,183	8,000	2,500	10,500	2	May perhaps be higher than anticipated in Chellambram.
2. Villapuram ...	4,44,680	21,875	38,000	59,875	13	
3. Tindivanam ...	4,84,500	58,310	40,688	98,998	20	
4. Cuddalore ...	3,48,319	21,000	13,000	34,000	10	
5. Virdachellam ...	2,93,423	12,500	9,750	22,250	8	
6. Kallakurichi ...	2,79,811	17,000	5,800	22,800	8	
7. Tricallore ...	3,62,539	13,575	18,889	32,464	9	
8. Trinomalay ...	2,45,295	11,100	12,850	23,980	10	
Total...	30,91,750	1,63,360	1,41,477	3,04,837	10	

It will be seen that they amount to Rs. 3,04,837, or 10 per cent upon the estimated beriz of Fusly 1283. They are considerably below those of Fuslies 1277 and 1278, which stand thus:—

Fuslies.	Beriz.	Remission.	Percentage.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1277	33,24,832	5,37,138	16
1278	32,44,848	6,11,056	19

In consultation with Mr. Garstin it has been arranged that Vencatasoubaiah, the Deputy Collector on special duty, should not only make some further inspection of the wet "shavi" in Tindivanam and Villapuram Taluks, but should also aid the divisional officers by taking charge of the remission work in these two taluks, where the claims are heaviest and where all

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could be brought to a satisfactory close under his management, as he understands exactly the course now advocated. The selection of Vencatasoubaiah by the Collector appears to be a particularly happy one, as he seems excellently suited for an important trustworthy duty of this nature.

18. More care should, I think, however, be taken in some taluks as to the mode of granting remissions for withered wet crops. The amount of revenue at stake is large, and it is not too much to expect that the Tahsildars, their Deputies, and servants from the Huzur should, as formerly, examine the fields upon which these remissions are claimed and determine whether the claims are fair or fictitious. As an instance of this, I may mention that I came upon the Vanoor Deputy Tahsildar sitting quietly in his office, very leisurely trying a man for stealing a "punchapatiram,"* worth about a rupee or so, when there were in his division claims for total remissions on lands assessed at about a quarter of a lac, not one acre of which he had ever "asymaished."* Similarly, the Villapuram Tahsildar told me he had only seen the withered crops of two villages close to his Cusbah, although he urged upon Mr. Garstin the necessity for remitting half a lac of Rupees on "wet" alone in his taluk. Contrast this with the course adopted by Mr. Dent in olden days during the bad year "Nandana," or 1832-33. "The accounts prepared in the first instance by the village-officers were compared, while the crops were still on the ground, by servants deputed from the Cusbah, and, lastly, underwent a third examination by servants sent from the Huzur Cutcherry, and were still open to further revision by the Collector at the time of making the settlement," *vide* Jummabundy report for Fusly 1242, dated October 12th, 1833. It appears to me that this change for the worse may be owing, in a great measure, to the present plan of nominating and promoting to revenue-posts only passed candidates, and thus we obtain clerks rather than field-hands, theorists, rather than practical men. In fact, I found that when I wanted to ascertain anything at all out of the common, I had to send for some one low down in the office, and who could not be promoted, because he had not passed the required standard. It may be said that Tahsildars' charges were not formerly so large as now, and that thus they had time for inspection, but they had within their smaller charges to perform the duties of D. P. W. Range Officers, and Inspectors of Police,—functionaries that did not then exist.

* Ordinary native drinking cup.

* "Asymaish" is inspection of the crops, field by field, as entered in the Land Register.

19. Prices began to rise in December when the wet crops were found to be likely to fail considerably, and rose successively higher in January and February when this probability had become a certainty. In fact, if this failure of wet crops had not occurred, we should very probably have heard but little about the high price and scarcity of dry grains. Paddy was dearest during the fortnight ending the 28th February last, when the first sort stood at 17 imperial seers per Rupee at the Collector's head-quarters; but it has since declined to 20 imperial seers. Dry grains are stationary; the price of cholum is the same as that in Trichinopoly and Salem, but in South Arcot cumboo and raggy are dearer, whilst paddy is slightly cheaper. Mr. Lister has gone somewhat carefully into the question of prices, and finds that, as a rule, they fall after March, which agrees with the Board's view that harvest time is not always the cheapest. It must often happen, when the season promises at all well for the future, that stocks on hand have to be reduced and sales effected previous to the ensuing harvest, which consequently brings down prices as the year advances. In Chellambram second sort paddy now sells at 28 imperial seers per Rupee according to accounts last received.

20. With the remissions above recommended; with the ordinary works of the district pushed on more rapidly than usual as a precautionary measure; and with the district officers closely watching, as they certainly are, for any signs of actual suffering; there is nothing now, in my opinion, to cause uneasiness or apprehension. Mr. Garstin has shown that he is not likely to neglect or under-rate symptoms of distress; and he has in Mr. Lister and Stri Balaiah two officers who have been long in the district, who know their divisions, and whose judgment can thoroughly be trusted.

21. I must not omit to acknowledge the aid that was given me by the General Deputy Collector Stri Balaiah who accompanied me through his taluks, nor the manner in which I was received by the Collector, the Sub-Collector, and the Head Assistant.

22. Mr. Sullivan kindly lent me the services of Banuvaiah, the Head Vernacular Clerk in the Revenue Settlement Office. He proved exceedingly useful, and as, owing to the rapid rate at which he had to travel, he will be a considerable loser if only allowed the regulated batta, I trust Government may be pleased to grant him an extra honorarium of Rupees 100.

Appendix.

VIRDACHELLAM.—The past season may be thus briefly described. Up to June, cotton, gingelly-oil seeds, and indigo on dry lands, and kar-paddy on wet, were doing well, and outturn fair. In July rains fell but scantily, and

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thus the breadth sown with cumboo was below that of the year previous, and altogether prospects were rather dull. In August, the crops looked better; they were fair in September, and reported to be in tolerable condition in October, when cumboo and cholum must have been harvested, as gram, which is sown after cumboo, was then put down. In November, prospects still continued fair, but the raggy harvest was light. In December, the crops on the ground, the chief of which was varagu, fell off, and, when ultimately harvested, the yield was short. There was no outcry as to the badness of the season, until the cry came from other parts, and the collections went on much as usual. There is no apprehension of scarcity at present, although prices will press heavily on the poor. Rain would now do much good to indigo, and in April the ryots would begin to plough for cumboo and cholum, which could be harvested in September. Taking estimates of outturn far lower than those ever adopted by the Settlement Department, there is, at least, four months' stock in hand for the requirements of this taluk, counting from the first proximo.

Area in square miles ...	566
Total number of villages ...	804
Population ...	180,411
Number of cattle ...	54,884
Beriz of Fusly 1282 Rs.	3,30,040
Number of puttahs ...	33,111
„ of tanks ...	441
„ of river-channels...	42
„ of spring-channels.	3
Anicuts ...	20
Wells ...	1,144

2. It was at first thought that there was no necessity for any dry remissions in this taluk; but, after Mr. Lister and I had talked over the matter, we considered that as the varagu harvest was undoubtedly short; that as there was a large area of "puttah waste;" and that as the average dry assessment in Virdachellam was Rs. 2-4-0 per acre; it was only right to aid the poorer soils and the poorer ryots by foregoing the last three kists on varagu to all puttahdars under Rs. 25. The wet tracts under the Mematore and Keenanore anicuts, as well as those under the spring-fed channels, had nothing to complain of; but crops under the smaller tanks dependent on rains alone perished to some extent. The amount that will have consequently to be surrendered is thus estimated :—

Items.	Amount. Rs.
Wet "shavi" and wet "waste" already allowed	3,250
To be hereafter given ...	6,500
Alleviations in dry as proposed	12,500
Total...	22,250

This Mr. Lister considers quite sufficient, and the sum is about Rupees 4,000 below that conceded to the ryots by Mr. Hathaway in Fusly 1277.

3. The following works can be set on foot, although here, as elsewhere, the opinion seems to be that should rain fall there will be difficulty in carrying them out.

Sanitary.—Rupees 2,000 will be at once allotted for clearing wells, drinking-pools, &c. These minor works can be carried out by the Tahsildar. The Local Funds of this Circle are very rich, so that, if more money be required for this object, it can be granted.

Local Funds.—Bridge over the Manimuktanaddy; dispensary at Virdachellam; choultry at Ootangal Mungalam. All these have been sanctioned, and allotments made.

Arrangements should also be made for some work being started in the northern part of the Kamapuram Firkah, which seems to be the poorest part of the taluk.

4. KALLAKURICHI.—Mr. Lister had just returned from making inquiries into the state of this taluk when I met him at Virdachellam, and it was clear from his investigations that, although the dry crops had suffered somewhat severely in one division, and that the varagu harvest had been universally light, there was nowhere failure so complete as to make reaping an operation costing more than it was worth. The Pandalum Firkah, which lies to the north of Kallakurichi itself, is the worst off, and comprises the villages of the Senkrapuram Jaghire; and it is here that alleviations in revenue will be mostly required. The wet lands are, as a rule, well off, and the irrigation is peculiar, being like that of the neighbouring taluk of Ahtur in Salem, where each village situated near the river has its own anicut, and is supplied thereby, from time to time as the freshes come down, from rain-falls on the neighbouring hills. Thus, in this taluk, there are thirty anicuts over the Manimuktanaddy, fifteen over the Musimanar, twenty over the Gomakanaddy, and so on. The tanks are also similarly benefited by their vicinity to the hills.

Area in square miles ...	607
Total number of villages ...	413
Population ...	197,912
Number of cattle ...	59,822
Beriz of Fusly 1282 Rs.	3,11,721
Number of puttahs ...	33,018
„ of tanks ...	389
„ of river-channels ...	97
„ of spring-channels..	—
Anicuts ...	86
Wells ...	8,724

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5. At present there is no want of drinking water, nor are many people on the look-out for employment. There must be a supply of grain on hand for about three months, but, as Kallakurichi is usually an exporting taluk, this may be diminished, and, in that case, supplies would no doubt come from Salem and elsewhere. It is hoped that, as rain usually falls early and plentifully in the neigbourhood of the Kallakurichi hills, cultivation will soon commence, and all be going on as usual. The revenue collections up to the end of February seem to have been unusually good, and the amount of property sold after attachment was under Rupees 600. In fact, about 70 per cent of the beriz has been already realized.

6. Here, as in Virdachellam, it was arranged that the last three kists on varagu lands should be foregone in the case of ryots whose puttahs were under 25 Rupees; the only exception being in the Pandalum Division, where it was proposed to extend this concession to all dry crops and to all puttahdars in those villages where such a course was shown to be necessary. From what I subsequently learnt, I cannot help thinking that Mr. Lister will find some of the Senkrapuram villages in this Firkah better off than we were led to suppose, and I have communicated with him on the matter.

For wet lands the usual remissions on "puttah waste" and "shavi" will be granted where the claims are substantiated, and the total amount under all heads may be thus estimated :—

Items.	Amount.
	RS.
Three last kists remitted in Senkrapuram villages ...	10,000
Do. on varagu to puttahdars under Rupees 25 ...	7,800
Wet "shavi" and "taras" ...	5,000
Total...	22,800

7. Some of the works that will be available for those that like to come thereto are :—

1*st*.—Road from Kallakurichi to Senkrapuram, where the crops are said to have been the least productive. For this work Rupees 6,000 are allotted for the ensuing year.

2*nd*.—Thiagahdroog choultry Rupees 5,000.

3*rd*.—Taluk Cutcherry at Kallakurichi.

4*th*.—Clearing wells and ponds, for which an allotment of Rupees 2,000 has been made from the Local Fund Budget, but which can be increased should occasion arise.

8. CHELLAMBRAM.—This taluk contains extensive tracts of rich land excellently irrigated, and, of course, in a season like the present, the ryots of these parts reap literally "golden harvests." A great portion of the taluk is irrigated by the Coleroon, the main branch of the Cauvery, which flowed on with its unabated regularity, and has thus furnished a secure outturn to the ryot, whilst his selling prices are trebled, owing to the failure of crops under less trustworthy sources. Another large tract is irrigated by the Vellar anicut, which also affords an early and bountiful supply. The rain-fall was fair, as upwards of 44 inches were recorded. Prices are not as yet exorbitantly high, and have slightly fallen, as paddy now sells for Rupees 1-4-0 the Harris cullum, or 26 imperial seers for the Rupee.

Area in square miles	...	393
Total number of villages	...	489
Population	...	240,586
Number of cattle	...	67,845
Beriz of Fusly 1282	Rs.	6,41,422
Number of puttahs	...	33,479
„ of tanks	...	106
„ of river-channels	...	516
„ of spring-channels	..	27
Anicuts	...	2
Wells	...	1,144

9. The Tahsildar after a very elaborate calculation arrives at the conclusion that, after feeding the inhabitants of his taluk for a year, there will be a surplus of a crore of Madras measures. These figures are, of course, practically useless, as export has been, and still is, going on from Porto Novo and Tirumulavassal, thus diminishing the stock in this vast granary. I hear, however, that Ceylon is now fully supplied, so that further exportation may cease for a while. Attached to the Chellambram Taluk there are the upland divisions of Strimushnam and Bowengherry, the latter including the resumed Paliemcottah Jaghire; and as these resemble the unirrigated tracts of the neighbouring Virdachellam Taluk, the same concession, viz., the surrender of the three last kists in varagu to all puttahdars under 25 Rupees may be granted. The usual remission for wet "shavi" must also be given; but this is only a small item, and applies mainly to wet lands under tanks in the upland divisions. The sums foregone will be therefore:—

	RS.
Last three kists in varagu ...	8,000
"Wet shavi"	2,500
Total...	10,500

This estimate appears to me, after further consideration, to be likely to be below the mark, and Mr. Lister may find it necessary to give more than we at first thought necessary in the upland tracts.

10. There is a sum of Rupees 3,000 to be allotted to the Tahsildar for repairing and restoring the drinking supplies in Strimushnam, Rupees 1,000 for the same purpose in Bowen-

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gherry; and there is sure to be, as far as this taluk is concerned, ample work for those who like to do it; but from the Tahsildar's account it seems far easier in Chellambram to obtain clerks and writers than labourers and artizans.

11. TRICALLORE.—The rain-fall registered was 32·34 inches fairly distributed, but there was a falling off in cultivation of acres 7,854 in dry and 998 in wet. Indigo occupying no less than 16,774 acres, early raggy and, in fact, all earlier crops did fairly, so that there is no necessity for granting remissions over the entire punjah area. It will be sufficient to forego the last three kists on varagu, including, in this concession, the extent of dry waste left uncultivated for want of rain, and amounting to 9,906 acres.

Area in square miles	...	500
Total number of villages	...	380
Population	...	216,390
Number of cattle	...	69,538
Beriz of Fasly 1282	Rs.	3,70,453
Number of puttahs	...	37,880
Do. of tanks	...	548
Do. of river-channels	...	87
Do. of spring-channels	..	33
Anicuts	...	7
Wells	...	7,428

12. The Ponnear, the Guddalum, and Mallatar rivers, as well as some large rain-fed tanks, which still contain water, brought the wet crops dependent thereon to maturity. But, in the case of lands less efficiently supplied, the remissions under "wet shavi" will be somewhat heavy. The freshes in the Ponnear were not so good as usual, but still the assessment on second crop cultivation comes to Rupees 9,609, or only about Rupees 400 less than that of last year, a particularly favourable season. Prices are high owing to light harvest, exports, and merchants holding back for hope of further rise; but there is at present no outcry for work, nor are people eating anything out of the usual way. Counting from the 15th March, the present stock of grain should last three months, but rain would bring down prices, and Salem would supply this taluk, supposing its resources ran short.

The remissions under all heads will be—

	RS.
Three last kists as proposed...	13,575
Wet "shavi"	11,889
Wet waste	7,000
Total...	33,464

It strikes me that this will be found more than adequate when Sri Balaiah comes actually to carry out the measure.

13. There are ample works in this taluk.

Sanitary.—Rupees 3,150 for clearing out wells, ponds, &c.

Agricultural.—Extension of Jembay channel.

Excavating channel to Mudiyanoor.

Clearing and restoring eleven tanks in Perikal and other villages, at estimated cost of Rupees 5,950.

Clearing out Mallatar and Ragavyen channels from Tricallore anicut.

Local Funds road from Tricallore to Wadayatoor, estimate Rupees 9,000.

Dispensary at Tricallore, Rupees 7,000.

Government choultry at do.

Private do. at Andrayanoor.

Road from Nuggar to join 22nd mile of road from Cuddalore to trunk road No. 8.

14. TRINOMALAY.—There were no rumours of anything being amiss until December, when complaints were made that the varagu and unwatered raggy crops were both deficient, but no petitions to this effect were actually presented. Gingelly-oil seeds did well, and likewise tobacco, of which there is a large breadth in this taluk. Wet crops under the Cheyar river and large tanks were all safe, but remissions must be made on account of those that perished under the smaller reservoirs. The three divisions of this taluk are somewhat different in their characteristics, so I will briefly notice them separately.

Area in square miles	...	990
Total number of villages	...	490
Population	...	165,113
Number of cattle	...	78,612
Beriz of Fasly 1282	Rs.	2,57,052
Number of puttahs	...	20,777
Do. of tanks	...	572
Do. of river-channels	...	44
Do. of spring-channels	.	6
Anicuts	...	26
Wells	...	10,291

15. Chekkady and Chengam, comprising 165 villages. Owing to their proximity to the hills, the Chekkady villages have fared better than any other part of the taluk. Gingelly-oil seeds yielded a valuable crop, and there was a fair downpour in December. There are no symptoms of distress; people are engaged in cultivating, cutting, and curing their tobacco; and the kists have been paid without any difficulty. In the "wet" villages the "Oobady" system, or division of crop between the ryot and the Circar, prevails, so where the crop is short the Government loses as much as the cultivator; but the whole outturn may be set down at three-fourths of the full yield. The state of affairs is also good in Chengam. Second crop was grown to the usual amount, and the wet "shavi" will not exceed 50 or 60 cawnies. The products of these villages are valuable.

There are no persons seeking for employment at present, and it is difficult to get people to work at the Chengam jail now in progress;

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there is no necessity for any remissions in "dry," and all that need be given are the usual concessions on wet.

16. Mathalambadi, 132 villages. This division occupies the northern portion of the taluk, and although here the earlier crops did fairly, varagu suffered. There is a large area under garden-culture, which furnishes employment and livelihood to many; others ply their carts for hire, and some are engaged in planting kar-paddy wherever there is water. It will be necessary to forego the three last kists in varagu in about five villages, and this, with the usual remission for "shavi," will be sufficient.

17. Cusbah Division, 177 villages. Here there is no river-irrigation, and although in many places the wet harvest turned out fairly, and even second crop was raised, there are withered crops to the extent of about 200 cawnies. This is also evidently the worst part of the taluk for dry, and there is less garden-cultivation. Gram was sown after cumboo as usual, but both only yielded a moderate crop between them. It will be necessary to give up the three last kists on varagu and broadcast raggy which is dependent on rains alone.

18. The above shows that, with the exception of the Cusbah Firkah, there is nothing out of the usual course, and collections have gone on the same as ever. The remissions stand thus, and come to Rupees 23,950 against 1,10,000 which were given in 1868:—

Item.	Amount.
	RS.
Wet, shavi or withered crop ...	4,850
Do., puttah waste	8,000
Varagu, three kists	9,500
Dry taras or waste, three kists.	1,600
Total...	23,950

19. The following works amongst others will furnish employment for the next few months at least; but at present the Tahsildar cannot get the labour he requires for works under his charge:—

(1.) The sum of Rupees 3,370 has been allotted for tanks and wells.

(2.) Road from Salem to Tandrampett, *vid* Malayanur.

(3.) Road from Cheyar river at Conjee to Trinomalay.

(4.) Channel from the Eriyur tank to Samudram.

(5.) Widening channel from Aliyar to Tanakambadi.

These two latter works have been sanctioned by Government in anticipation of regular estimates.

20. CUDDALORE.—The wet lands watered by the Guddalum river, which always furnishes a good supply, were not affected, nor were those under the Perumal tank. The Ponnear freshes were less plenteous than usual, and this decreased the supply furnished to the spring-channels; so that in some few river-irrigated villages claims for "shavi" must be attended to. Under the smaller rain-fed tanks the remissions naturally come heavier, and the total amount to be surrendered under the head of "Wet" will be Rupees 13,000.

Area in square miles	...	459
Total number of villages	...	249
Population	...	285,893
Number of cattle	...	49,033
Beriz of Fusly 1282	Rs.	3,83,469
Number of puttahs	...	34,847
" of tanks	...	197
" of river-channels	...	70
" of spring-channels.		23
Anicuts	...	3
Wells	...	1,736

21. In many villages of this taluk the yield of the dry crops was fair, and no remission at all was called for. In the Kurinjipadi and Punrooty Firkahs the drought has been more severely felt, and it was necessary to give relief where the crops had failed, but the whole amount thus foregone will not be more than Rupees 21,000, thus making the entire remissions stand at Rupees 34,000 for both wet and dry, or about 10 per cent on the total beriz. This is far below the sums remitted during the bad season of Fusly 1275, when they came to Rupees 70,946-11-1, and of 1277 when they reached Rupees 78,516-2-9.

The Cuddalore Taluk is being settled by Mr. Garstin himself, and it will be seen that no concessions are being made beyond those which the exigencies of the season seem to demand.

22. There is at present no actual dread of scarcity. The poor naturally suffer from the high prices, whilst their richer neighbours are making fine profits thereby. The quantity of grain stored is sufficient for at least three or four months; but it is advisable to give work in certain localities, more especially as, if rain persistently holds off, there may be some distress in the Kurinjipadi and Punrooty Firkahs.

23. The works that it is proposed to undertake at once are repairs to the three following Local Fund roads, viz.:—

No. 39. From Virdachellam road to Perumal tank.

No. 43. From Punrooty to Annatoor.

No. 40. From Kurinjipadi to Bowengherry as far as Paravanar.

A sum of Rupees 2,000 will also be entrusted to the Tahsildar for repairing ponds whence drinking water may be obtained in those localities where the supply seems likely to run short. The railway work now going on in this

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taluk will also furnish labour for some time to come, say for two months, and, as it consists mainly of earth-work, it is available for any unskilled hands. Prices are a little easier owing to the harvest now being got in, and paddy is sold at 16 measures the Rupee. During the hard times of 1866 prices rose to 9 measures the Rupee in Cuddalore, and if rain holds off as it is now doing, the prices of the present year will doubtless rule very high.

24. TINDIVANAM.—In this taluk, the Revenue-officials had apparently taken a more gloomy view of the situation than matters really seemed to warrant, and a reduction of 75 per cent on the dry assessment throughout had been recommended. But, after further discussion, it was found that such large concessions were not really needed, and that the usual remissions under "Wet" and some extra alleviations upon certain dry crops would suffice. If concessions to the amount of 75 per cent had been given, much revenue already paid would have had to be refunded, with but very small chance of the money reaching the proper persons.

Area in square miles ...	810
Total number of villages ...	564
Population ...	239,963
Number of cattle ...	131,062
Beriz of Fusly 1282 Rs.	4,98,377
Number of puttahs ...	40,330
,, of tanks ...	821
,, of river-channels...	24
,, of spring-channels..	59
Anicuts ...	20
Wells ...	12,345

25. The rain-fall amounts to 34·65 inches, it being heavier on the sea-board than inland. From the season reports the following may be gathered:—

Up to June things were as usual. In July the rains were scanty and matters looked bad. In August they were better, and in September and October better still. In November varagu and sumbah were in good condition, and by this time, although the report is silent on this point, cumboo and raggy must have been reaped. In December things were reported bad in many villages, and thus the late crops, such as varagu, doubtless suffered, whilst the early ones, such as gingelly-oil seeds, and indigo, must have done fairly. The ground-nut crop, which is sown in July and August, and is ready for taking up in December, must have yielded tolerably, and, of course, the large area under wells was much as usual.

26. Owing to this taluk depending mainly upon rain-fed tanks, the amount of remission will be large under the head of "Wet," and, although heavy showers might even now save some of the withering crops, I have not taken this contingency into calculation, but have reckoned them as follows:—

Items.	Amount.
	RS.
Withered crops	24,927
Wet waste, including kusser charge remitted	15,761
Total...	40,688

This is a heavy sum, but as I was assured no "shavi" was remitted without inspection, I do not see how, in justice, the amount can be lessened.

27. For dry lands it has been determined to forego the last three kists on all items, excepting the following:—

Indigo.	Sugar-cane, and other garden-crops.
Ground-nut.	Topes.
Gingelly-oil seeds.	Buildings.
Cotton.	All lands upon which a second crop has been raised.
Watered paddy.	
Watered raggy.	

The concession is also to embrace punjah waste where there is no negligence shown on the part of the cultivators. By adopting this liberal method, which seems certainly calculated to afford all necessary relief, the amount foregone will be Rupees 58,310.

The total sum to be surrendered thus reaches Rupees 98,998, which is less than that of Fusly 1277, but still it seems to me high. When, however, the special Deputy Collector Vencatasoubaiah takes charge of the duty of accurately allotting the dry remissions as the Collector and I have arranged, there may be a considerable saving effected in the rough estimate of Rupees 58,310.

28. Besides the railway works now in progress, the outlay under agricultural, the sums allotted for improving the drinking supply, and the ordinary repairs, there are the following works already entered in the budget for 1874-75:—

		Allotment.
		RS.
1.	Re-gravelling the road between Tindivanam and Pondicherry, *viá* Kiliyanur, and constructing four tunnels, amount of estimate Rupees 5,000 ...	3,000
2.	Draining and improving the town of Tindivanam, estimate Rupees 4,000	2,000
3.	Constructing a choultry at Tindivanam, estimate Rupees 7,300.	4,300
	Total ...	9,300

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29. VILLAPURAM.—The wet lands in this taluk have the benefit of both spring and river-channels leading from the Ponnear. There are also minor rivers and many rain-fed tanks. The Ponnear freshes, and, in fact, all sources fell off earlier than was anticipated, so that there is a considerable area of wet "shavi" which will have to be remitted. This item is estimated at Rupees 26,000, including the charges for water-rate, which will have to be foregone. The wet waste to be remitted is approximately set down at Rupees 12,000, but a portion of this will no doubt disappear when the several cases are investigated by the Collector at the Settlement.

Area in square miles ...	611
Total number of villages ...	309
Populations ...	236,257
Number of cattle ...	71,549
Beriz of Fusly 1282 Rs.	4,49,805
Number of puttahs ...	41,181
" of tanks ...	467
" of river-channels...	57
" of spring-channels.	74
Anicuts ...	15
Wells ...	6,033

30. This taluk has always been noted for its valuable dry crops, the assessment on indigo lands alone last fusly, amounting to half a lac, or nearly a fourth of the entire punjah beriz. Ground-nut also occupied land assessed at Rupees 13,177. Fortunately, there was nothing untoward in the season as far as the earlier crops were concerned, and in these are comprised the above valuable products; but the yields of varagu, unwatered raggy, and cholum, are said to have been far below the mark. Here, as elsewhere, it is not easy to understand how cumboo has suffered to the extent now represented, as the season reports written during the cumboo harvest mention no remarkable failures, although the prices soon afterwards certainly show that this grain was scarce.

31. It will, I think, be best to adopt the same plan here as in Tindivanam regarding the alleviations on dry grains, and remit the three last kists on land not occupied by any of the following items:—

Watered raggy.	Cotton.
" paddy.	Topes.
Ground-nut.	Garden-products.
Gingelly-oil seeds.	Lands on which two crops were raised.
Indigo.	Buildings.

The Collector must, of course, be left the usual latitude in applying these concessions, and the final result of his inquiries will most probably be that I have over-estimated the amount to be foregone.

After deducting lands occupied as above mentioned, the concessions upon "dry" amounts to Rupees 21,875, which is far less than must have been anticipated from previous accounts, which seemed to involve the sacrifice of half the dry land revenue.

The total amount to be remitted will accordingly be—

	RS.
In wet	38,000
In dry	21,875
Total...	59,875

or about 15 per cent on the total estimated demand.

32. It is not anticipated that any measures of relief are likely to be required; at all events, for the present, beyond pushing on the ordinary works under Agricultural and Local Funds, 2,000 Rupees will be allotted for clearing out wells and improving the water-supply where there may be any deficiency. If matters do not improve, the Tahsildar might also undertake the repairs to tanks just as he did in 1868, when he tells me he completed twenty-five works of this nature; but it must be remembered that there will be plenty of work under the railway contractors, as the line is now being made through this taluk.

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Second Member, Revenue Board.

Order thereon, 6th May 1874, No. 558.

In the foregoing letter, Mr. Banbury (Member of the Board of Revenue) reports on the condition of the South Arcot District in reply to G. O., 3rd March 1874, No. 304, Revenue Department.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is glad to find that in Mr. Banbury's opinion there is no reason to apprehend actual famine, though prices are high, and that by pushing on the works, imperial and local, already sanctioned and granting remissions of revenue, all will have been done that the nature of the case at present requires.

3. The remissions proposed, amounting, it is expected, to Rupees 3,04,837, or 10 per cent upon the estimated beriz of Fusly 1283, will be subject to such modifications as may appear necessary on further detailed examination, and in connection with this subject the particular attention of the Board of Revenue will be called to Mr. Banbury's remarks in paragraph 18 of his report. It is not creditable that recommendations for remission should be made in so reckless a manner without due investigation and consideration. The Collector should be directed to submit explanations from the Tahsildars referred to, and to state the method, if any, which was adopted by all the subordinate officials in recording their opinions that

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specified sums should be remitted in their taluks.

4. The concessions adverted to in paragraph 6 are approved, and the recommendation in paragraph 16 is also sanctioned. The subject of paragraph 22 has already been disposed of in a separate order.

5. The Collector will be instructed to submit fortnightly reports upon the state of the district, so that, if matters should get worse, prompt action may be taken.

6. The Government approve generally of the instructions which Mr. Banbury gave on the spot, and appreciate the promptness with which he has carried out their directions.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secy. to Government.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GUARANTEED RAILWAYS: LOSS BY EXCHANGE.

It is now twelve or fourteen years, since we first directed public attention to the arrangement by which the exchange value of the Rupee was fixed by the Home Government at 1*s.* 10*d.* in its transactions with the guaranteed Railway Companies. The arrangement has entailed a loss of several millions upon the Indian Exchequer, while Parliament is at intervals amused by assurances that the arrangement was a wise and economic one, and marked by great foresight on the part of its promoters. Thus, in his budget speech of 1869, Mr. Grant Duff is reported to have spoken as follows :—

"When the arrangements with the Indian Railway Companies were made, it was provided that for every Rupee they paid in in India from their traffic receipts, they should be credited with 1*s.* 10*d.* in London, and for every 1*s.* 10*d.* they paid in in London to our account at the Bank of England, that is, for every 1*s.* 10*d.* of capital they raised, they should be credited with a Rupee in India. A Rupee is, however, at the usual rate of exchange, worth 2*s.* and not 1*s.* 10*d.*; and all accounts between the India Office and the Indian Governments are settled at that figure. It follows, therefore, that the Companies lose 2*d.* on every Rupee they pay in in India, and gain 2*d.* on every 1*s.* 10*d.* they pay in in England; and that as the one and ten-pences they pay in in England are more numerous than the Rupees they pay in in India, they gain and we lose a great deal in the course of the year. Ere long, however, I am happy to say, that the tables will be turned: they will pay in more Rupees in India than one and ten-pences here, and we, not they, will begin to be the winners in the game of exchange."

And this prediction, a late number of the *London Economist* tells us, has now come true, and "the Indian Government since 1869 has "been increasingly in a better position than it "would have been, if the exchange of 2*s.* had "been maintained." Assurances of this order, when made by official men, pass for what they are worth; but when a great non-official authority endorses them, it becomes necessary to show once more how ruinous the arrangement has really been, and how ill-informed our contemporary is upon the subject. Once for all, then, *it is not possible for the arrangement to be anything but a source of loss* to the Indian taxpayer, until the profits upon the lines cover not merely the amount of the guaranteed interest, but yield a surplus beyond it. Accepting Mr. Grant Duff's account of the arrangement as correct, let us now try to show how it has worked, and how it ever *must* work as long as it lasts. In round figures, the Home Government borrowed £100,000,000 sterling many years ago from English capitalists for the construction of the Indian railways; or to speak more exactly, undertook, if they would spend that amount upon the works in question, to guarantee them 5 per cent interest upon their outlay. Instead of leaving the Companies however to remit the amount they had agreed to invest in this country in any way that might seem best to them, the Government volunteered to remit it for them; and to credit them with one Rupee in India for every 1*s.* 10*d.* paid by them into the Treasury in London. The consideration was—that when the lines were completed, and their net earnings had to be remitted back as dividends, the Companies should be credited with 1*s.* 10*d.* only for every Rupee of the earnings so coming to them.

In other words, the Home Government, acting on behalf of the Indian Exchequer, entered into a gigantic speculation in exchange, the issues of which no one could possibly predict, and stretching into a future indefinitely remote. A speculation, so gigantic that all the Exchange Banks in the world would have stood aghast if it had been proposed to them, was entered upon without any misgiving apparently that it could go wrong. It has gone wrong from the first, and there is not a shadow of reasonable hope, that it will ever go right. Instead of leaving the Companies to remit their capital to India at the current exchange of the day the Government quixotically undertook to remit it for them at the conventional rate of 1*s.* 10*d.*, thus facing an immediate and heavy loss in hope of a splendid reversion doomed never to be realized. In plain words, the Government made the Companies an immediate present of several millions sterling, for a reversion so remote that the man would be thought mad who in ordinary business life should entertain the thought of it for a moment.

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Every Rupee which the Indian Treasury has paid in this country for the construction of these lines in the last 25 years, has been conventionally valued in London at 1*s.* 10*d.* only; the Companies pocketing a profit of about four millions sterling in this way, or with interest added, we suppose about six millions. In other words, the Companies are our creditors for six millions sterling more than they ought to be, and than they ever advanced, through this exchange operation that was to benefit India so much.

And now for the reversionary profit that it seems is to accrue to us from the speculation, and to recoup us this great loss. The net earnings of the Companies being received in India and going into the Treasury in Rupees, are to be valued, we are told, for all time at the same conventional rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* It is true, says Mr. Grant Duff, that our speculation has resulted for the present in heavy loss, but "ere long I am happy to say the tables will be "turned, and we, and not they, will begin to "be winners in the game of exchange." The tune to which we have lost in this nice game is admitted; but the tables are now about to be turned; nay, according to the *Economist*, they *have* already turned, and we are beginning to recoup our losses. Our contemporary has overlooked the real working of the arrangement. It is quite true that for all time to come, the Companies will be able to claim credit from us in London for no more than 1*s.* 10*d.* for every Rupee of *surplus profits* that may have to be paid them over and above the guaranteed interest: *but then there are no surplus profits, and no reasonable prospect of there ever being any.* We have paid six millions sterling for the right to calculate and remit the surplus profits at 1*s.* 10*d.* instead of 2*s.* But until the net earnings of the Companies equal the guaranteed interest, the exchange at which we value those earnings is not worth the labour we spend on the conversion of one currency into the other. To make this plain, let us suppose that the net earnings of the guaranteed lines last year were Rupees 40,000,000 while the guaranteed interest was £5,000,000. So long then as the State has to make up the amount to five millions sterling, it is, we say, of very little consequence whether we value the Rupees 40,000,000 net earnings at 1*s.* 10*d.* or at 2*s.* It is a mere matter of our own book-keeping, whether the equivalent of Rupees 40,000,000 is put down as £4,000,000 sterling, or only £3,680,000. We put the forty million Rupees into the Treasury without respect to their exchange value, and we pay the five millions sterling in London. The only way in which India can ever profit by the arrangement, is by the net earnings rising to a pitch at which they over pass the interest. Suppose that the net earnings of 1873 had been sixty millions of Rupees instead of forty, we should then have had the right to make up accounts with the Companies thus:—

Net Earnings, Rupees 60,000,000 @ 1*s.* 10*d* ...	£5,500,000
Guaranteed Interest ...	5,000,000
Surplus to be divided between the Companies and ourselves	£500,000

And the Companies would have a claim to half this surplus (or £250,000) instead of half the larger sum which would have been due to them under a more favourable rate, say 2*s.*:—

Net Earnings, Rupees 60,000,000 @ 2*s.* =	£6,000,000
Guaranteed Interest ...	5,000,000
Surplus to divide...	£1,000,000

And for the chance of reducing the reversionary profits of the Companies in this way, the Home Government has paid a sum of about £6,000,000 sterling, and saddled us with a permanent annuity of £250,000 a year in the way of interest thereon. A more unwise speculation was never entered upon, a speculation that would have broken all the Exchange Banks of the East, had they ventured upon it. And we are doomed to hear English statesmen expatiate upon its advantages in the House of Commons to this day, and to see them kept in countenance by the *Economist*. Had there been any real control of Indian Finance by the House, the nature of this blunder would long since have been laid bare. We tried to arrest the error fourteen years ago, but without success. —*Indian Economist*, May 30, p. 257.

THE IMPERIAL GUARANTEE.

Fourteen years after the right time, and too late unhappily, the English press is waking up to the folly of our having withheld a national guarantee from the Indian debt. Speaking of the new loan (Famine) the *Overland Mail* writes:—

"It has been a general surprise that the "Government have not saved India the estimated 75,000*l.* a-year in respect of the new "Famine loan by adding the guarantee of Great "Britain. It would have cost England nothing "to have guaranteed the loan, and it would "have done infinitely more than saved the "additional interest which, without it, has "to be paid—it would have largely promoted "good-will where we never cease to desire "to see it. Of course the wish that our Eastern "dependency should be financially free is laudable enough; and if Parliament had been "asked to sanction anything in the way of "a concession for the Bengal Famine, it "possibly could not have been asked to do

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" so little. Still we cannot but think *that an* " *opportunity has been allowed to pass* in which " England ought to have financially gone to " the assistance of India. Whether we should " stop at the Famine loan is a wider question, " but one that deserves consideration. As " Mr. William Fowler, the late Member for " Cambridge, puts the case:—If England and " India are one in finance—as it seems many, " if not most, investors imagine—we (that is, " India) are paying at least 3,000,000*l*. a-year " more than we ought. Mr. Fowler asks that " the question of responsibility should be " settled. If the assumed 'moral' Imperial " guarantee be moonshine, then it is time " people knew it, because clearly investors in " Indian loans are either getting too little or " too much interest—'too much, if the debt " be really guaranteed; and too little, if it be " not.'"

Four long years, 1857 to 1861, were Indian Securities (four per cents) quoted below 80, and all that time did we fruitlessly strive to awaken English statesmen to the error that was being committed. In September 1857 four per cents were at 69, and in April 1861 but at 79, and though it was as plain then as now that England was prepared to spend, if necessary, 500 millions to prevent the Indian Empire being torn from her grasp, her statesmen refused to guarantee the 100 millions of her debt, out of pure deference to popular ignorance. Lord Stanley to his honour *did* intimate clearly to the House of Commons his own opinion upon the subject; but he lacked the power to lead, and the House the will to be led, to a wise and just decision upon the matter. We are pledged to retain the Indian Empire. Is it to be for one moment supposed that England, which expended sixty millions in propping up the Turkish Empire in 1855 will ever resign her own greatest dependency without a still more costly struggle? But if fifty or five hundred millions would and must, in an emergency, be spent on this object, then are we already pledged to that full extent to the retention of India. Nor only so; each year of our dominion sees an increasing portion of England's wealth invested in India; every year the Indian trade becomes a larger per-centage on her total commerce. To say that England is pecuniarily interested in India, at this moment, to the extent of five hundred millions sterling, would be no exaggeration. To resign India, therefore, would be to inflict on a portion of the British community a loss equivalent to a repudiation of sixty per cent of the national debt, without the counterbalancing advantange of relieving the tax-payers in the same proportion. Those who hold this interest of 500 millions, are amongst the most energetic and influential of the British community. Would they listen to any proposal for abandoning India? Would it be possible to overcome their resistance to such a project, and the popular opposition they could bring to bear against such a design?

England, therefore, is pledged to retain India; so deeply and irrevocably pledged, that she can abandon it only with her national existence. This is no case in which Colonists may, as they gain strength and wealth, throw off their allegiance to the mother-country without further sacrifice than the cost of an ineffectual war. The loss of India means the loss of every fraction of English capital invested in railways, plantations, and commerce, as well as in the public debt. But holding India thus for good or evil, must we not make it pay? Is an Indian national bankruptcy under English rule, more conceivable than a national bankruptcy at home? It is simply inconceivable. Whoever goes unpaid, or underpaid; whatever remains undone; English rulers must first meet the demands of the public creditor. If they do not, they will speedily be changed by a people who regard a Government engagement as an absolute certainty.

But if England *must* retain India, and *must* make it pay, what remains? She must economise its resources. One million and a half a-year might be gained by her guarantee of the Indian debt. Such a sum spent on reproductive works would afford an annual return which, employed as a sinking fund, would purchase up every fraction of the debt in twenty-five years. Do we not expect to hold India for one generation more? Would we resign it for the few millions extra of consols into which the 100 millions of Indian debt might be converted? If England would not; if she is confident of holding India for at least one generation longer: is it not the part of prudence as well as of generosity, to incur a nominal risk for that period, which will secure her against all risk, on the same account, for all future time? A nominal risk, we term it; for to whom is the Indian debt due? Very largely to English creditors, who would suffer two-fifths more by a failure of the Indian Government, than the English tax-payer could suffer by an imperial guarantee. In either case, it is the English community which must suffer: the only difference is in the designation of those who directly bear the burden.

Take, however, the extreme case of India's being lost by an incompetence on the part of its rulers, equal to that which refuses to see the conditions of its profitable retention; and assume that the loss has, by some miracle, been made compatible with England's continued existence as an independent nation. What in such a case would be the effect of a guarantee? The English community at large would have to make good to those members of it who had previously drawn their annuities from the Indian revenue, a sum of about three millions a-year. This would be a small addition to the

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burden of the English tax-payer; but it represents the extreme amount of his risk. By applying the interest saved by conversion to the redemption of the stock, the risk would diminish from year to year. By applying the profits of the conversion to works of irrigation, and the profits of the latter to the extinction of the debt, this would diminish still more rapidly; while new and inexhaustible fields would simultaneously be opened up to British enterprise. What, on the other hand, would be the effect of the loss of India *without* an Imperial guarantee of the Indian debt? Five millions instead of three, per annum would be due to the holders of Indian securities. The English taxpayer would not be called upon to make good any portion of the loss. It would fall wholly upon the fundholders. But those fundholders are themselves but a portion of the whole British community. The only difference would be that in the one case the three millions, by being distributed amongst the whole population, though burdensome, would still be no intolerable burden; while in the other, the loss, falling in the first instance upon a few thousand individuals, would reduce them to utter misery, and in the end the effects of their insolvency would be shared, in one form or another, by every member of the society.

England as a nation has positively nothing to gain, but much to lose, by refusing that guarantee on which the development of our resources so largly depends. The very simplicity of the demonstration may cause some to regard it with suspicion; for, they will argue, if the matter is so plain, how can it have escaped the notice, or failed to reach the convictions, of statesmen who have been Chancellors of the Exchequer, and what not? But history teaches us that the simplest truths, however convincingly demonstrated, may remain for generations unrecognized even in the country of Adam Smith; and that in a popular assembly like the House of Commons, words count for a vast deal too much with men who will not be at the trouble of examining their true significance. Yet we may surely claim that the effort should be made; that the refusal of a guarantee should be shown to be utterly futile, a source of loss, and no means of safety. It would then rest with the conscience of Parliament to sanction or reject this great means of India's welfare. Selfishness has tinged with a dark line the whole course of our transactions with India, and dictated the cry of "self-dependence" with which we mock its people, while at the same time they are deprived of all effective control of their monetary affairs. By the refusal of England to guarantee the Indian debt, a sum of one million and a-half sterling a-year is as absolutely wasted as if it were cast into the sea.

The high rate of interest which the want of an Imperial guarantee forces the Indian Government to offer, has drawn a large amount of English capital into Indian securities. On the eve of any convulsion, the natives of India would make haste to rid themselves of what securities they still held; and the close of a struggle which should deprive us of India, would leave the whole Indian debt due to English fundholders. Even as the case stands, an enormous portion is in the hands of English holders, so that, in the event of a national bankruptcy, the greater portion of the loss would fall upon the English community. Whether in such a case the English holders of Indian securities could prevail upon the House of Commons to assume the payment of their dividends as a national responsibility, may admit of question. This much only is certain, that such a responsibility, assumed at the eleventh hour, would involve a needless and enormous loss, while its entire repudiation would inflict a fatal blow on English credit, costing more in the long run than even the other alternative.

Many years ago, we predicted in the *Times of India* as one of the financial certainties of the future, a gradual approximation in the price of Indian securities to that point at which an equal investment would produce an equal return in them, as in Consols. The process on which we calculated, as the means of bringing about this result, long since commenced. The Court of Chancery, forsaking Consols, has been investing its trust funds in Indian stock for many years past. The example has been gradually followed by all the trustees of large funds in the kingdom. "Enlightened self-interest," as we repeatedly pointed out, enables investors to pierce through the pretence of non-responsibility so loudly proclaimed by English financiers, to perceive that every addition to the national debt of India is an addition to the ties which bind the country to England, and, therefore, an *Imperial Guarantee*, as effective and certain as if it were ostentatiously proclaimed upon every bourse in Europe. What binds England to the retention of India, apart from consideration of national prestige, is the extent of the interest held by English citizens in the country. That interest increases, and must increase, every day. The national debt of India is a portion of that interest, but a portion whose ratio to the whole constantly diminishes; and England can throw up her practical responsibility for the Indian debt only with her hold on the country, and at the sacrifice of all her capital invested in it. This she will not, because she cannot do, consistently with her own solvency; and the guarantee of both funds being practically the same, capital will forsake that which affords the smaller, for that which offers the larger, return.

The improvident principle, upon which the Indian loans at the time of the Mutiny were

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raised, did not escape remark, even from Englishmen. An old and highly respected banker in the North of England criticised those arrangements as follows:—

"Sir Charles Wood and Mr. Gladstone, in borrowing money in the British market for the use of India, offered five per cent for it, and gave to the lenders the same facilities for receiving their dividends as those possessed by the holders of the three per cent Consols. If these gentlemen had wished to depreciate the value of three per cent Consols, and thus to prevent any future Chancellor of the Exchequer from borrowing money at that rate, they could scarcely have devised a more effectual method for accomplishing their object. It is true that these Indian loans are professedly borrowed on Indian securities; but if those securities be not unquestionably good, those who are entrusted with the custody of the national credit of Great Britain ought not to have given their sanction to them at all, for it would be a woful day to British credit if our national rulers were to attempt to repudiate these Indian loans on the plea that the Indian revenue was inadequate to pay the interest upon them; and if they are perfectly safe, then our financial ministers, by giving them the proper benefit of British credit, might have obtained the money at or near three per cent, and by so doing have upheld the value of Consols, and greatly economised the national expenditure."—*Mystery of Money Explained*, p. 32.

No one, of course, asks England to guarantee the Indian debt as it stands. Such a proposal would betray a want of businesslike sagacity no less remarkable than the short-sightedness of the policy at present in favour. To guarantee the hundred millions of Indian debt would be to place that sum on the footing of Consols, and thus make a present of some forty millions to Indian stock-holders. Such an arrangement is out of the question; and if the conversion is to be simply from Indian to English perpetual annuities, it should, of course, be made at the price of the day. If Indian five per cent stock stands at par, while three per cents are at 90, the effect of an unconditional guarantee would be to raise the former to 150, and to impoverish either India or England by the whole amount of the difference. If the Indian fundholder wishes for a better security, he must be content to accept a rate of interest lower, in the proportion of 100 to 150; since for an annuity of 5*l.* guaranteed by England, as in Consols, the public is willing to pay the latter sum, while the same annuity, guaranteed but by India, commands only the former. Any such conversion must, of course, be at the option of the fundholders; and a moment's reflection will show the needless difficulties and the frightful losses that have been incurred by the pottering and timid policy which refused a guarantee and its advantages in the first instance and at the time when we so earnestly counselled it.—*Idem*, p. 267.

GOVERNMENT SEED DEPOT, BENGAL.

The formation of a central depôt for the supply of seeds, grafts, &c., to the public gardens and experimental farms in which attempts are being made to improve the husbandry of the people of Bengal, has been in contemplation for some time past, to meet the numerous applications which are being made from the districts for seeds of all kinds. For exotic seeds and plants, Calcutta would perhaps be the most convenient depôt as it is near the sea-board, and sufficiently central for the purposes of the farms. It has also the advantage of a botanical garden under the management of officers of great knowledge and experience as botanists, who would be willing to assist in distributing the plants and seeds.

As the establishment of the experimental farms will necessitate constant indents for seed for experimental purposes, and as Government has as yet no seed depôt for their supply, local officers have been asked to assist one another as far as is in their power, in procuring such seeds, until arrangements can be made for their supply from a central depôt.

Some months ago, Mr. Robertson, of Madras, Mr. Fretwell, of the Khandesh Farm, and Dr. King, of the Botanical Gardens, were asked to favour the Government with such suggestions as might occur to them for the commencement of such a depôt. And the request has elicited several very interesting papers on the subject which we subjoin. The papers are certainly very valuable. With reference to Mr. Robertson's suggestions, however, it may possibly not be necessary to store the whole of the seed in stock in thin layers on a granary floor; and we certainly do not like iron roofs in this climate, which in this case would entail the sacrifice of a drying and winnowing platform. We fear also that neither Messrs. Lawson, of Edinburgh, nor Messrs. Sutton and Co., of Reading, could send us a man likely to be "well-informed as to the seed-producing capabilities of the different parts of Bengal" or "well-acquainted (except theoretically) with the vegetable productions of tropical and semi-tropical countries" or "able to advise as to the suitability of any newly introduced crops or trees to the circumstances of any given locality in Bengal." We think we shall have to ask Mr. Robertson himself for the man we want.

In Bombay they have, we believe, proposed a rather more extensive scheme of seed distribution than is contemplated in Bengal; but it is worth considering whether the number of model farms might not be reduced, if a wide system of seed distribution is to be organised. As Mr. Robertson puts it, "good seed" is by no means a *secondary* consideration, but may precede "good farming practice" with advantage, whilst the latter must be unsatisfying in its results if good seed is not available.

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Suggestions by Mr. W. R. Robertson.

I have been desired to suggest the steps to be taken for the formation of a central depôt for the supply of seeds, grafts, &c., to the public farms and gardens in the various provinces of Bengal.

I am in doubt regarding the sense in which the term "central" is used, whether in a geographical sense, or as simply indicating the head-quarters or centre of action; but I shall assume that it is in the latter, and that it is intended to establish the central depôt somewhere near Calcutta, the centre from which, in Bengal, all Government action emanates. I shall also take it for granted that the depôt is not to be merely a place of temporary deposit for seeds, grafts, &c., but that it will in addition afford facilities for preserving, acclimatizing, and multiplying the seeds, roots, cuttings, &c., of useful plants received from abroad. To establish such an undertaking on a sound footing, it will be necessary to secure a block of suitable land, and to erect upon it the buildings needed; these buildings may be a granary in which seeds may be received, cleaned, stored, and again packed for despatch, a propagating and seed-testing house, and one or two sheds. The area of land to be taken up need not at commencement be large, probably 20 acres would be quite sufficient. The soils should be as varied as it is possible to meet with on such a small area of land. The whole should be capable of being thoroughly drained, and ample irrigation means should be provided. The buildings at first need not be extensive, but they should be so erected that at any time they can readily be extended in harmony with the original design in view to the economy of labour. The granary may consist of four rooms,—a receiving room, a sorting and cleaning-room, a packing-room, and a seed-room. The three rooms first mentioned need not be large, but it is of the utmost importance that the seed-room should have ample accommodation to admit of the seed being stored in thin layers over a large surface of floor, and to allow of it being readily turned and inspected. This room should contain no fixtures of any sort, and its walls should be plastered, in order that there should be no shelter for insects, &c. The ventilation of this room should be under complete control. The whole erection should be well and substantially built to guard against weevils, white-ants, rats, squirrels, &c., which, in a badly erected granary, are exceedingly destructive to the seed stored. It is advisable that asphalte floors and iron roofs should be adopted. The propagating and seed-testing house may be an ordinary glass-house, in which the temperature can be regulated.

The sheds may be simple erections, such as are found to be necessary. Depôts should be started in a few selected districts to be worked as branches of the central depôt; indeed, without these branches the central depôt would be of little use beyond its own immediate neighbourhood. These depôts need not be more than mere local agencies for procuring and distributing seeds, plants, &c., &c. The whole undertaking should, I think, be placed under the management of a practical seedsman, who also possesses some knowledge of the management of tree nurseries. There would not, I imagine, be any difficulty in securing the services of a competent man from the establishments of Messrs. Lawson and Sons, of Edinburgh, or of Messrs. Sutton and Co., of Reading, Berkshire, or, at any rate, through the agency of either of these firms. The duties of the officer at the head of the seed department would be chiefly those of an ordinary seedsman; he should be the agency through which the wants of the different districts would be met; he should keep himself informed of the seed-producing capabilities of the different parts of Bengal, and should be able, at any time, to procure seeds from the best districts for use in localities in which, though the soils are good, the seed is inferior; and he should be well acquainted with the vegetable productions of tropical and semi-tropical countries, in order that he may at all times be able to procure such seeds, plants, &c., as may be required, and be able to advise as to the suitability of any newly-introduced crops or trees to the circumstances of any given locality in Bengal. I am not aware whether there is any intention of organizing a system of farms over Bengal; but if there is, the central seed depôt might be connected with the central farm, and the branch depôts with the district farms. If connected with such an agency, the action of the farms would become more satisfactory, as the seed of a superior kind produced on them would thus meet with a ready demand, and be more widely diffused over the country.

In conclusion, I would observe that the mere introduction of good seed into India, and the distribution of it over the country, will do little for the permanent benefit of Indian agriculture, unless accompanied by some general effort to improve the agricultural practice. It seems to me that before attempting to introduce largely improved varieties of trees and seeds from other countries, we should endeavour first to bring about something like an equilibrium in the *quality* of our field productions. There is nothing which illustrates more forcibly the apathy and want of enterprise amongst our cultivators than the fact that in one district they are content to produce an inferior variety of tree or crop, while their neighbours, perhaps not a day's journey distant, in exactly similar circumstances, are producing trees and crops of greatly superior varieties. In work such as

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this there is much to be done, and under present circumstances with far greater prospect of permanent good to the country than can possibly result from even a large expenditure of money in importing and spreading over the country valuable trees and seeds obtained from abroad.

Suggestions by DR. KING, *Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta.*

I have the honour to submit my opinion as to the formation of a depôt of seeds, from which distribution might be made to public gardens, experimental farms, &c. I am of opinion that it would be advantageous if there were such a depôt, as under competent skilled management the mistakes ought to be avoided which are often made when inexperienced people order seeds for themselves from Europe or elsewhere. The seeds to be distributed from such a depôt would be either those of plants indigenous to India, such as timber trees, country vegetables, cereals, &c., or seeds of introduced plants, such as European vegetables and flowers. For the supply of the former I would suggest that, with some little increase, the establishment at this garden would be sufficient; a proper seed-house would, however, undoubtedly require to be built. I submitted to Government two years ago a proposal that I should be permitted to communicate with the officers of the Forest Department over the whole of India, with the view of obtaining supplies of seeds of the valuable trees characteristic of the different parts of the country, so that these supplies might be sent here and from hence distributed to other districts suitable for their growth, both within India and beyond it.

This scheme, though sanctioned by Government, lay in abeyance during my recent absence in England, but since my return I have taken steps to carry it out. As regards Indian cereals and vegetables, the seeds of these could be raised in ground set apart for the purpose within the bounds of this garden, or if the demand were greater than could be so supplied, on a piece of land lying near the garden rented for the purpose. There are, however, certain sorts of both cereals and native vegetables which are raised much more readily and much better in the dry climate of Upper India than in that of Bengal, and which might be supplied to the central depôt from the Botanical Garden at Saharunpore, or from the public gardens at Lucknow and Lahore. This could be easily arranged. The climate of the Patna district is well adapted to seed growing, and, if it is considered necessary to grow all supplies within the territory under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, some of the sorts might be grown at Patna if proper arrangement were made. With regard to the second kind of seeds above mentioned, namely those of vegetables and flowers, I would very strongly recommend that no attempt be made to grow such anywhere near Calcutta. The idea of "acclimatizing" English vegetables in India, in other words, of propagating them from year to year by seed raised in this country, is not very practicable in any part of India, but least of all perhaps in Lower Bengal. "Country" or "acclimatized" seed usually germinates freely enough, but the vegetables are flavourless and insipid. English-grown seed, on the contrary, is often uncertain in germination (this is often, however, due to improper treatment), but the resulting vegetables have nearly the full flavour of those one gets in England.

The acclimatization in India of the seeds of the kinds of annual flowers usually cultivated in English gardens has been much more successful than that of seeds of vegetables; the reason being that most of the annuals are themselves exotic in England and are natives of warmer climates. At Lucknow, Bangalore, Saharunpore, and Lahore, but especially at the two former places, the success in acclimatizing annuals has been remarkable. In or near Calcutta it has been very poor. I myself have no doubt whatever that the difference of climate explains this, and I do not believe it is any use trying to grow such seeds in a moist climate like that of Lower Bengal. I would, therefore, recommend that if such annual flower seeds are to be supplied from the proposed depôt, the supplies be got from the places already mentioned, or, if they must be raised within Bengal, that they be grown at Patna. As regards English vegetable seeds, my opinion is that supplies should be sent direct from a good seedsman in England to the place where they are to be sown without passing through any depôt in India. Indents could be arranged in the depôt if necessary, and sent from it to the seedsman who is to supply them, but I see nothing whatever to be gained by having the seeds sent to a central depôt in this country. The parcel post now affords great facility for direct communication. The climate of Calcutta at the season when seeds of English vegetables must arrive is very damp and steamy, and is one most fatal to the vitality of European seeds. I feel quite sure that the experience of every body who has bought English seeds from a Calcutta dealer, or who has got them otherwise than direct from England by post, is one of disappointment and vexation. I cannot see that anything is to be gained by collecting seeds sent from England in a general depôt in India prior to distribution, while, on the other hand, delay is certain to take place, as some time must be occupied in repacking, forwarding, &c., and delay is of all things to be avoided. Lastly, I would suggest that any seeds to be got from England, be got direct from a seedsman, and not through the India Office.

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Suggestions by MR. VAUSE FRETWELL, *Khandesh Model Farm.*

With reference to the establishment of "a central depôt for a supply of seeds, grafts, &c., to the public gardens and experimental farms in Bengal," I have the honour to submit the following observations:—

In the first place, I would recommend that the central depôt should farm a branch of the principal experimental farm in the province, the Superintendent of which should exercise a general supervision over all the other farms in the same province. Looking to the extent of business likely to be transacted at such a central depôt for such a large area, it would doubtless require a special assistant, but his operations should be under the control of an officer occupying a position similar to that held by Mr. Robertson in Madras. The large quantities of selected seed likely to be required, precludes the idea of a mere seed-garden supplying the demand, as I presume that the issue of selected seed would not be confined to the quantities required for the Government farms, but that an endeavour would be made to supply improved seed to the cultivators of each district, the produce of which is at present of a superior description. Every experimental farm in the province should be at once a source of supply to the central depôt, and itself a depôt for the distribution of improved seed in its vicinity.

The accounts of the seed depôt should be entirely distinct from those of the farm to which it may be attached, and the Superintendent would have to depend for its supply, not only on his home farm and those subordinate to it, but on similar institutions in the other presidencies, and on the co-operation of the district civil officers throughout Bengal. All imported seeds should be acclimatized on the home farm. Taking into consideration the large extent of business to be expected, I am not disposed to recommend the construction of buildings on such a scale as to admit of the whole stock being stored (as in an ordinary seed-room) in thin layers on the floor. In the dry climate of India, it will suffice to keep it (after having been once secured in good condition) in wicker-work "kungis"* such as are used by the cultivators of the presidency to store their produce in. A few neem-tree leaves, intermixed with the grain, will suffice to preserve it from insects, and the contents of each kungi should be turned out periodically on to the floor to be aired and examined. The store-rooms should be on an upper story, well ventilated, and secured against the entry of vermin. It should have preferably a flat chunam roof, which could be used as a drying ground. There should, in addition, be chunam "barbecuse" in front of the building for similar purposes. The lower story should be occupied by the office, sorting, receiving, and despatching rooms, and the whole should be of pucka materials, weather and vermin proof. Knowing nothing of the cost of labour and building materials in Bengal, I am not in a position to furnish estimates of the probable amount of outlay requisite.

* A "kungi" is a large circular wicker-work "bin" capable of containing from 100 to 150 bushels of grain, and admitting the air through the interstices in the wicker-work.

The propagation of cuttings, grafts, and seedlings would form a part of the home farm operations, and no special expenditure need be incurred on this account by the seed depôt, which would simply have to credit the farm with everything received from it for distribution. I do not think it would be wise to attempt to make the seed depôt self-supporting, as it will take a long time to convince the native cultivator of the advantages to be derived from the use of selected seed at a price higher than that ruling in his neighbourhood for the ordinary produce of the district. Selected seed should therefore be supplied (in the first place) in districts, the produce of which is inferior at the current market rates of the district; all expenditure incurred for carriage and selection being borne by the depôt. If this is done, it is sure to stimulate a desire in the native cultivator to ascertain for himself a knowledge of the improved methods which have resulted in producing grain superior to his own, and in this manner the influence of the model farms may be (at a comparatively small cost) extended far beyond their immediate neighbourhood, and less expenditure will have to be incurred in multiplying them throughout the districts. The establishment of such an agency for the general distribution of seed, &c., of improved qualities, cannot, I think, fail in popularizing the agricultural practice followed out on the model farms. Let the ryot see the results in the shape of improved produce *first*, before showing him the extra cost of the improved practice, and his curiosity will be aroused to ascertain whether he has it within his power to achieve the same result. As it is, the usual matter which first attracts his notice on the model farms, is the cost of working them, of which he usually hears most exaggerated reports, and frightened by this, he makes no inquiry whatever as to results. It is, in fact, not stupid apathy which deters him from attempting improvements when the way is shown to him, but his impecuniosity. In my opinion, the native cultivator compares favourably (so far as intelligence goes) with the English agricultural labourer of a dozen years ago. His prejudices against improvements are not the result of stolid pigheadedness, but of his bondage to the village sircar.—*Idem*, p. 268.

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ACT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The following Act of the Governor-General of India in Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 7th April 1874.

Act No. IX of 1874.

THE EUROPEAN VAGRANCY ACT, 1874.

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to European Vagrancy.

Preamble.

Whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the laws relating to persons of European extraction who wander in a destitute condition throughout India; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Part I.

Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be called "The European Vagrancy Act, 1874:"

Local extent.

It extends to the whole of British India and to the dominions of Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty;

Commencement.

And it shall come into force at once: Provided that Sections 4 to 16 (both inclusive), 19, 20, 24 and 29 shall not come into force in Coorg, or in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, or in any of the dominions of the Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty not situate within the limits of any Presidency, Lieutenant-Governorship or Chief Commissionership in British India, until such day or respective days as the Governor-General in Council from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, appoints in this behalf.

Repeal of Acts.

2. Acts No XXI of 1869 (*to provide against European Vagrancy*) and No. XXVIII of 1871 (*to amend the European Vagrancy Act*, 1869) are hereby repealed.

But all appointments and orders made, work-houses provided, certificates given, powers conferred, rules prescribed, and exemptions granted under the former Act shall be deemed to have been respectively made, provided, given, conferred, prescribed, and granted under this Act.

Interpretation-clause.

3. In this Act—

"Person of European Extraction."

"Person of European extraction" includes—

(*a*) persons born in Europe, America, the West Indies, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Natal, or the Cape Colony,

(*b*) the sons and grandsons of such persons,

but does not include persons commonly called Eurasians or East Indians:

"Vagrant."

"Vagrant" means a person of European extraction found asking for alms, or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence:

"Master of a ship."

"Master of a ship" includes any person in charge of a decked vessel:

"Magistrate."

And in Parts III and V of this Act, "Magistrate" means, within the limits of the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, a Magistrate of Police, and outside those limits, a person exercising powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure not less than those of a Magistrate of the 2nd Class.

Part II.

Procedure.

Power to require apparent vagrant to go before Magistrate.

4. Any Police officer may, within the limits of the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, require any person who is apparently a vagrant to accompany him or any other Police officer to, and to appear before, the nearest Magistrate of Police, and may, without those limits, require any such person to accompany him or any other Police officer to, and to appear before, the nearest Justice of the Peace exercising the powers of a Magistrate of the 1st Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Summary inquiry into vagrant's circumstances.

5. The Magistrate of Police or Justice shall in such case, or in any other case where a person apparently a vagrant comes before him, make a summary inquiry into the circumstances and character of the apparent vagrant; and if he is satisfied that such person is a vagrant, he shall record in his office a declaration to that effect.

Order to go to work-house.

If he is further of opinion that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment at once, or if he has reason to believe that a declaration of vagrancy has on any former occasion been recorded in respect of such vagrant, he shall require the vagrant to go to a Government work-house, and shall draw up an order to that effect.

The vagrant shall then be placed in charge of the Police for the purpose of being forwarded to the work-house, and the said order shall be a sufficient authority to the Police for retaining him in their charge while he is on his way to the work-house, and to the Governor of

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the work-house for receiving and detaining such vagrant.

Forwarding vagrant to place of employment.

6. Where the officer making the inquiry mentioned in Section 5 is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to obtain employment in any place subject to the local Government, or (when the vagrant is in any part of the dominions mentioned in Section 1) in any place subject to any adjacent local Government, such officer may, in his discretion, forward the vagrant to such place in charge of the Police, and draw up an order to that effect.

Such order shall be a sufficient authority to the Police for retaining the vagrant in their charge while he is on his way to such place of employment.

Assistance to obtain employment.

7. Upon his arrival at the place of employment, the vagrant shall be taken before the nearest Magistrate of Police or Justice of the Peace exercising powers as aforesaid, to whom the order for transmission shall be delivered.

Such officer shall thereupon, to the best of his ability, assist the vagrant in seeking employment, and may in the meantime, if he think fit, keep the vagrant in the charge of the Police.

Should the vagrant fail to obtain suitable employment within a reasonable time not exceeding fifteen days from such arrival, such officer shall forward him to Government work-house in the manner provided by Section 5.

Subsistence allowance.

8. Every person while in charge of the Police, whether before inquiry as to his vagrancy, or while he is on his way, under Section 5, to the work-house, or, under Section 6, to a place of employment, shall be entitled to an allowance for his subsistence at the rate of 8 Annas per diem.

The Magistrate of Police or Justice, before whom any vagrant is taken under Section 7, may, if he think fit, order the vagrant to receive a similar allowance while he is seeking employment.

The local Government shall cause such allowance to be paid out of such funds at its disposal and in such manner as it may from time to time direct.

Power to give certificates.

9. Any Magistrate of Police or Justice of the Peace exercising powers as aforesaid may, on being satisfied that any person of European extraction is not likely to become a vagrant, give such person a certificate under his hand stating that for a certain time (mentioning it) not exceeding six months from the date of the certificate, and within certain limits (mentioning them), nothing in Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 shall apply to the holder of such certificate; and thereupon so long as the certificate remains in force nothing in Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 shall apply to such person within such limits as aforesaid.

Form of certificate.

Every such certificate shall be in the form set forth in the first Schedule to this Act annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit.

Power to invest certain officials with jurisdiction of Justices, under Sections 5, 7, 8 and 9.

10. The local Government may from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, invest any Justice of the Peace, District Superintendent of Police, or Assistant District Superintendent of Police with the jurisdiction and powers conferred by this Part on a Justice of the Peace exercising powers as aforesaid.

PART III.

Government Work-houses.

Provision of Government work-houses.

11. The local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, may provide work-houses, with their necessary furniture and establishment, at such places as it may think proper, for the temporary reception of vagrants,

or may, by writing under the hand of a Secretary to such Government, certify any building, or part of a building not provided as a work-house under the former part of this section, to be fit for a work-house for the purposes of this Act. Every such certificate shall be published in the local official Gazette, and thereupon such building or part of a building shall, until the local Government otherwise orders, be deemed a Government work-house under this Act.

Scale of diet.

The local Government shall allow the same scale of diet for the support of vagrants received in such work-houses as is for the time being allowed for Europeans confined in the local prisons or penitentiaries.

Superintendence of work-houses.

12. Every such work-house shall be under the immediate charge of a Governor, who shall be appointed, and may be suspended or removed, by the local Government.

Every such Governor shall, if the local Government think fit, be subject to the orders of a Committee of Management appointed from time to time by such Government, or,

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in the absence of a Committee, to the orders of such officer as the local Government from time to time appoints in this behalf.

Search of vagrants.

13. Every such Governor may order that any vagrant admitted to the work-house under his charge shall be searched, and that the vagrant's bundles, packages, and other effects shall be inspected, and may direct that any money then found with or on the vagrant shall be applied (subject to the orders of the local Government) towards the expense of carrying this Act into execution, and may order that all or any of the said effects shall be sold, and that the produce of the sale be applied as aforesaid, but subject to the like orders.

Discipline.

14. Vagrants admitted to work-houses under this Act shall be subject to such rules of management and discipline as may from time to time be prescribed by the local Government with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council.

The local Government may authorize any Governor of a work-house to punish (under or not under the supervision and direction of a Committee of Management, as the local Government thinks fit) any vagrant who knowingly disobeys or neglects any such rule with any one of the following punishments (namely)—

(*a*) solitary confinement within the work-house for any time not exceeding seven days;

(*b*) solitary confinement within the work-house for any time not exceeding three days upon a diet reduced to such extent as the local Government may prescribe;

(*c*) hard labour for any time not exceeding seven days;

(*d*) reduction of diet to such extent as the local Government may prescribe for any time not exceeding five days.

Or in lieu of any such punishment any such vagrant may, on conviction before a Magistrate of such disobedience or neglect, be punishable with rigorous imprisonment in jail for a term which may extend to three months.

Refusal to accept employment.

15. The Governor and the Committee of Management (if any) of every such work-house shall use his and their best endeavours to obtain outside the work-house suitable employment for the vagrants admitted thereto.

When such employment is obtained, any such vagrant refusing or neglecting to avail himself thereof, shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month.

PART IV.

Removal from India.

Removal of vagrants.

16. If after the lapse of a reasonable time no suitable employment is obtainable for any such vagrant, the local Government may either (when he has entered into such agreement as hereinafter mentioned) cause him to be removed from British India in manner hereinafter provided, the cost of such removal being paid by Government;

Cost of removal.

or it may cause Sections 23 and 30 to be read to him and may then release him.

Agreements with vagrants.

17. Any vagrant or other person of European extraction may enter into an agreement in writing with the Secretary of State for India in Council, binding himself—

(*a*) to proceed to such port in British India as shall be mentioned in the agreement;

(*b*) there to embark on board such ship and at such time as is directed by an officer appointed in this behalf by the local Government of the territories in which such port is situate, for the purpose of being removed from India at the expense of the said Secretary of State in Council;

(*c*) to remain on board such ship until she has arrived at her port of destination; and

(*d*) not to return to India until five years have elapsed from the date of such embarkation.

Form of agreement.

Every such agreement may be on unstamped paper and shall be in the form set forth in the second Schedule to this Act annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances admit.

Power to perform agreement.

18. The local Government of the territories in which the said port is situate may enter into such contracts for conveyance or otherwise, and perform such other acts as may be necessary to carry out such agreement on the part of the said Secretary of State in Council.

PART V.

Penalties.

Refusal to go before Magistrate.

19. Any person refusing or failing to accompany a Police officer to, or to appear before, a Magistrate of Police or Justice of the Peace, for the purpose of preliminary inquiry, when required so to do under Section 4, may be

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arrested without warrant and shall be punishable, whether he be, or be not, an European British subject, on conviction before a Magistrate, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine, or with both.

Assaulting Police.

And any person who, when required under Section 4 to accompany a Police officer to, or to appear before, a Magistrate of Police or Justice of the Peace, commits an offence punishable under Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code, may, whether he be, or be not, an European British subject, be tried by a Magistrate for such offence.

Escaping from Police.

20. Any vagrant who escapes from the Police while committed to their charge under the orders specified in Sections 5 and 6,

Quitting work-house without leave.

or who leaves a work-house, under this Act, without permission from the Governor,

Failing to return to work-house.

or who having with such permission left a work-house for a limited time or a specified purpose, fails to return on the expiration of such time or when such purpose has been accomplished or proves to be impracticable,

shall for every such offence be punishable, on conviction before a Magistrate, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years.

Failing to proceed to port of embarkation.

21. Any person entering into an agreement under Section 17, and failing to proceed in pursuance thereof to the port therein mentioned,

Refusing to go on board ship.

or refusing to embark when directed so to do under the same section,

Escaping from ship.

or escaping from the ship in which he has so embarked before she has reached her port of destination,

shall for every such offence be punishable, whether he be, or be not, an European British subject, on conviction before a Magistrate, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months.

Returning to India.

22. Any person returning to India within five years of the date of his embarkation pursuant to any agreement entered into under Section 17, unless specially permitted so to do by the Secretary of State for India, shall for every such offence be punishable, whether he be, or be not, an European British subject, on conviction before a Magistrate, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years.

Begging.

23. Any person of European extraction found asking for alms when he has sufficient means of subsistence,

or asking for alms in a threatening or insolent manner,

or continuing to ask for alms of any person after he has been required to desist,

shall be punishable, whether he be, or be not, an European British subject, on conviction before a Magistrate, with rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month for the first offence, two months for the second, and three months for any subsequent offence.

Procedure on close of imprisonment.

24. Every person imprisoned under Sections 19, 20, 21, 22 or 23, shall, at the end of his term of imprisonment, be placed before the nearest Magistrate of Police or Justice of the Peace exercising powers as aforesaid, who shall, if he think fit, forthwith deal with him in the manner prescribed by Sections 5 and 6.

The order of transmission shall certify the fact of the previous conviction.

Penalty on ship-master bringing European convicts to India.

25. Every master of a ship landing or allowing to land in any part of British India any person of European extraction who has been convicted in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions of felony, or of an offence which, if committed in England, would be felony, shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be liable, for every such person so landed or allowed to land, to pay a fine not exceeding 500 Rupees and not less than 100 Rupees, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two months,

unless the defendant satisfy the Magistrate by evidence (which the defendant is hereby declared competent to give) that he had made due inquiry as to the person so landed, or allowed to land, and that he had no reason to believe that such person had been convicted as aforesaid.

Power to exempt certain ship-masters.

The Governor-General in Council may from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, exempt from the operation of the former part of this section the masters of any class of ships, on such terms as to the Governor-General in Council seem fit, and either in respect of all or of any of the persons on board such ships.

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The Governor-General in Council may in like manner revoke any exemption made under this section.

Recovery of fines.

26. All fines imposed under this Act may be recovered, if for offences committed outside the local limits of the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, in the manner prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, and if for offences committed within those limits, in the manner prescribed by any Act regulating the Police of such towns in force for the time being.

Payment of fines.

All fines recovered under this Act shall be paid to the credit of the Government of India, or as the Governor-General in Council from time to time directs.

Prosecutions.

27. All prosecutions under this Act may be instituted and conducted by such officer as the local Government from time to time appoints in this behalf.

Limits of jurisdiction.

28. In imposing penalties under this Part and Part III of this Act, no person shall exceed the limits of jurisdiction prescribed for him by the Code of Criminal Procedure in the case of offenders not being European British subjects.

Validity of proceedings where Magistrate is not the nearest.

29. No proceeding under this Act shall be deemed invalid by reason only that the Magistrate of Police or Justice, before whom a person, apparently a vagrant, was required to appear, or before whom a person was placed under Section 24, was not the nearest.

PART VI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Deprivation of privileges of European British subjects under Criminal Procedure Code.

30. Any European British subject who, upon the summary inquiry mentioned in Section 5, has been determined to be a vagrant, or who has been convicted under Section 22 or Section 23, shall, so long as he remains in India, be subject, beyond the limits of the said towns, to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (other than those contained in Chapter XXXVIII of the same Code) applicable to an European not being a British subject.

If from any cause he is committed or held to bail by a Justice of the Peace to take his trial before a High Court, he shall not be at liberty to object to the jurisdiction of such Justice of the Peace or High Court on the ground of anything contained in the former part of this section.

Save as aforesaid nothing herein contained shall be deemed to confer jurisdiction over European British subjects on Magistrates who if this Act had not been passed, would have had no such jurisdiction.

Liability of importers of Europeans or employers of soldiers becoming vagrants.

31. Whenever any person of European extraction lands in India, or, being a Non-Commissioned Officer or Soldier in Her Majesty's Army, leaves that Army in India, under an engagement to serve any other person, or any Company, Association or body of persons in any capacity,

and whenever a sailor of European extraction not being a British subject, is discharged from his ship in any British Indian port,

and becomes chargeable to the State as a vagrant within one year after his arrival in India or leaving the Army, or discharge from his ship, as the case may be, then the person, or Company, Association or Body, to serve whom he has so landed in India or left the Army, or, in the case of a sailor, the person who is at the date of the discharge the owner or agent of the ship from which the sailor has been so discharged, shall be liable to pay to the Government the cost of his removal under this Act, and all other charges incurred by the State in consequence of his becoming a vagrant.

Recovery of charges.

Such costs and charges shall be recoverable by suit as if an express agreement to repay them had been entered into with the Secretary of State for India in Council, by the person, Company, Association, Body, owner or agent chargeable.

Liability of consignee in case of Europeans who arrive in charge of animals and become vagrants.

32. When any person of European extraction lands in India, being or having been during his passage to India, or from one Indian port to another, in charge of, or in attendance upon, any animal, and becomes chargeable to the State as a vagrant within one year after his arrival in India, then

the consignee of such animal,

or the agents in India for the sale of such animal,

or, if such consignee or agents cannot be found,

the agent to whom the ship in which such animal arrived in India was consigned,

shall be liable to pay to the Government the cost of such person's removal under this Act, and all other charges incurred by the State in consequence of his becoming a vagrant.

Any such consignee or agent shall be entitled to charge the consignor or principal for any payment to the Government under this section.

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For the purposes of this section 'consignee' includes any person who undertakes to dispose of such animal for the benefit of the consignor, and

'Consignee' defined.

'Agent' includes any person who undertakes the agency of such ship, though it may not have been consigned to him.

'Agent' defined.

33. In any proceeding under this Part, a certified copy of the declaration recorded under Section 5, shall be *primâ facie* evidence that the European British subject named therein has been, upon the summary inquiry mentioned in that section, determined to be and that he was at the date of the declaration a vagrant.

Evidence of declaration under Section 5.

34. The powers and duties conferred and imposed by Sections 16 and 18, on a local Government, may be exercised and performed by such class of officers as the local Government from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, appoints in this behalf.

Exercise of powers conferred on local Government.

35. The powers and duties conferred and imposed by this Act on Magistrates, Justices of the Peace exercising the powers of a Magistrate of the 1st Class, and Police officers respectively may, in places beyond the limits of British India, be exercised and performed by such persons respectively as the Governor-General in Council from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, appoints in this behalf.

Exercise in Native States of powers conferred on Magistrates, Justices, and Police.

36. The Governor-General in Council may from time to time make rules, consistent with this Act, for the guidance of officers in matters connected with its enforcement.

Power to make rules for guidance of officers.

All such rules shall be published in the *Gazette of India*, and shall thereupon have the force of law.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE.

(See Section 9.)

WHEREAS *E. F.* of a person of European extraction and holder of this certificate, has appeared before me and satisfied me that he is not likely to become a vagrant within the meaning of the European Vagrancy Act, 1874, THESE ARE TO CERTIFY that for the space of months from the date hereof and within the Province [*or* District] of nothing in Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the same Act shall be deemed to apply to him, unless he is found asking for alms, IN WHICH CASE this certificate shall be void.

(Signed) *G. H.*

Dated this day of 18 .
Magistrate of Police for the Town of
or Justice of the Peace for exercising the powers of a Magistrate of the class.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

(See Section 17.)

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made this day of 18 BETWEEN the Secretary of State for India in Council of the one part and *C. D.* of, &c., [*the vagrant*] of the other part: Each of the parties hereto (so far as relates to the acts on his own part to be performed) hereby agrees with the other of them as follows:—

1. The said *C. D.* shall proceed forthwith to the port of [*the port of embarkation.*]

2. The said *C. D.* shall there embark on board such ship and at such time as an officer appointed in this behalf by the local Government shall direct.

3. The said *C. D.* shall remain on board such ship until she shall have arrived at her port of destination.

4. The said *C. D.* shall not return to India until five years shall have elapsed from the date of such embarkation, unless specially permitted so to return by the said Secretary of State.

5. The said Secretary of State in Council shall defray the cost of the transit of the said *C. D.* to the said port, and of his lodging and subsistence during such transit and during his detention (if any) at the same port, and shall contract with the owner of the said ship, or his agent, for the passage of the said *C. D.* on board the said ship, and for his subsistence during the voyage for which he shall embark as aforesaid.

In witness whereof *A. B.* (by order of the Governor-General of India in Council [*or* the Governor of in Council, *or* the Lieutenant-Governor of , *or* the Chief Commissioner of], on behalf of the said Secretary of State in Council), and the said *C. D.* have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

WHITLEY STOKES,
Secy. to the Government of India.

Re-published by order of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

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